



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Lance Cpl. Joshua Bernard patrols through a bazaar in the village of Dahaneh on Aug. 14 in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Less than an hour later, Bernard's squad was ambushed by Taliban fighters. Bernard was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade and later died of his wounds.

BY ALFRED DE MONTESQUIOU
AND JULIE JACOBSON
The Associated Press

DAHANEH, Afghanistan — The pomegranate grove looked ominous.

The U.S. patrol had a tip that Taliban fighters were lying in ambush, and a Marine had his weapon trained on the trees 70 yards away.

"If you see anything move from there, light it up," Cpl. Braxton Russell told him.

Thirty seconds later, a salvo of gunfire and RPGs — rocket-propelled grenades — poured out of the grove.

"Casualty! We've got a casualty!" someone

shouted.

A grenade had hit Lance Cpl. Joshua "Bernie" Bernard in the legs.

A Marine and son of a Marine, a devout Christian, Iraq war veteran and avid hiker, homeschooled in rural Maine, Bernard was about to become the next fatality in the deadliest month of the deadliest year since the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

The troops of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines had been fighting for three days to wrest this town in southern Afghanistan from the Taliban who had ruled it for four years.

SEE MARINE ON PAGE 4

DEATH OF A MARINE



Lance Cpl. Joshua Bernard

Calm — then a sudden casualty in Afghanistan war's deadliest month

Security increased, alcohol banned for guards at embassy in Kabul

BY JASON STRAZIUSO
The Associated Press

KABUL — The U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan has banned alcohol and assigned American personnel to watch the embassy's security guards following allegations of lewd behavior and sexual misconduct at their living quarters.

The announcement of the crackdown on embassy guards came as NATO reported the deaths of two U.S. servicemembers in southern Afghanistan. A British soldier was also killed, according to the U.K. military.

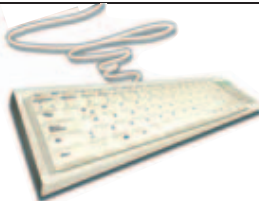
The two U.S. personnel were killed by a bomb while on patrol in the region, which has seen some of the most intense fighting of the war. No other details have been released. The British soldier from 2nd Battalion, Mercian Regiment was shot dead while on patrol in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province.

The U.S. Embassy announced its new security measures Thursday after an independent watchdog group charged that guards hired by a private contractor were threatened and intimidated by supervisors.

SEE EMBASSY ON PAGE 6

Three-peat

Top 3 finalists from last season's Heisman voting return for another year and shot at trophy **Back page**



Got input?

Army to post field operation manuals in Wikipedia-style format **Page 3**

All active-duty personnel to get swine flu vaccine **Page 2**

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"The fact that for 16 years [the SEC] had on blinders and earmuffs is mind-numbing."

— Jacob Frenkel, a former SEC attorney and federal prosecutor, on a report by the SEC inspector general on the bungling of the Bernard Madoff fraud case

See story on Page 12

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Military to require swine flu shot

All active-duty personnel to be administered H1N1 vaccine

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Starting this fall, all active-duty personnel will be required to get vaccinated against the H1N1 flu virus, Defense Department officials announced this week.

Health care workers, deploying troops, those serving on ships and submarines, and enlistees are among those who will get the vaccination first, said Army Dr. (Lt. Col.) Wayne Hachey, director of preventive medicine for Defense Department health affairs.

"Any place where we take a bunch of people, squash them all together ... and put them under stressful conditions will get the vaccine first," Hachey said during an interview Tuesday on the military's Pentagon Channel. "Flu on a submarine is a very bad thing. We'd rather prevent that if we can."

Hachey said he expects DOD to begin administering the vaccine in the first half of October.

The department has purchased 2.7 million doses, according to Hachey.

He said the vaccine will also be available to DOD civilians and military family members who want it.

"The question will be when your turn will come," he said.

Worldwide, 2,185 people have died from the virus, according to the World Health Organization.

Military commands in Europe could not say Thursday when they expected to have the vaccine in hand.

"We're going to make sure everyone gets it this year," said Phil Tegtmeyer, a U.S. Army Europe Regional Medical Command spokesman. "We're working on our own plan for administering the vaccine."

U.S. Air Forces in Europe will start vaccinating its troops for swine flu once supplies arrive, USAFE officials said Thursday, noting the program will likely

occur at the same time as seasonal flu vaccinations. Active-duty personnel who have had adverse reactions to the regular influenza vaccine won't be required to get the H1N1 vaccine, USAFE officials said in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes.

Still uncertain is whether people will need one or two doses.

"The assumption right now is that people will need two doses, 21 days apart," Hachey said. "That may change."

If two doses are required, military members who deploy after their first inoculation will be able to receive a second round of the vaccination downrange, Hachey said.

The vaccine is still being tested in clinical trials. Swiss drug maker Novartis said Thursday that early results from human tests on one of its swine flu vaccines show it might work with just one dose.

Novartis is one of five manu-

2.7M

The number of doses of swine flu vaccine purchased by the DOD

facturers currently producing an H1N1 vaccine for the United States, according to USAFE.

As drug makers rush to develop a proven vaccine for swine flu, an official with the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said CDC will be monitoring the inoculations for safety.

"We're not expecting any unusual events associated with the vaccine," CDC spokesman Tom Skinner said Thursday, "since we're using the same sort of technology to produce the seasonal flu vaccine every year."

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China to approve single-dose swine flu shot

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese officials say they are about to approve vaccines that prevent the new flu in a single dose.

Currently, many health researchers fear it will take two shots to protect people, vastly complicating efforts to stem the spread of the illness.

The World Health Organization says it is encouraged after reviewing the test details from one of the two Chinese vaccines. But experts said more results are needed from other vaccine makers to determine if one dose would be potent enough.

In about two weeks, the U.S. expects to announce initial test results from its vaccine, which is the same type as one of the Chinese versions, said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.



AP

Lab workers check chicken eggs that are being used to develop H1N1 flu vaccine in Shanghai on Aug. 26. China will soon approve domestically developed swine flu vaccines that manufacturers say can protect people against the virus with only one dose.

Vaccine may guard pigs against human swine flu

LINCOLN, Neb. — Humans may not be the only ones guarding against swine flu by the time cold weather ushers in influenza season. The flu namesakes could also be getting new vaccinations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has given several animal vaccine manufacturers the "master seed virus" from the swine flu strain now circulating among humans. At least one of the companies said Wednesday it's developing a vaccination for pigs, which can contract the virus from infected people — in much the same way people do.

Flu viruses pass from human to hog mostly from coughing and sneezing, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

From The Associated Press

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Army testing wiki-style updates to manuals

By TERI WEAVER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Attention soldiers: If you know a better way to execute Army operations, now's your chance to prove it.

The Army has plans to put about 230 field operations manuals into a Wikipedia-style format to let soldiers of all ranks edit or change Army guidelines, according to Clint Ancker, a retired Army colonel who now directs the Army office dedicated to doctrine.

Until Oct. 2, soldiers with an Army account and a military identification card can make changes to 17 manuals in a pilot program, Ancker said.

Eventually, the project will put a little less than half of all Army manuals into the wiki format, which will allow soldiers to make instantaneous changes about the best ways to set supply lines, evacuate casualties, place artillery and convoy through the battlefield, Ancker said.

"Some of that changes very rapidly," Ancker said, "especially when they deal with an adapting enemy."

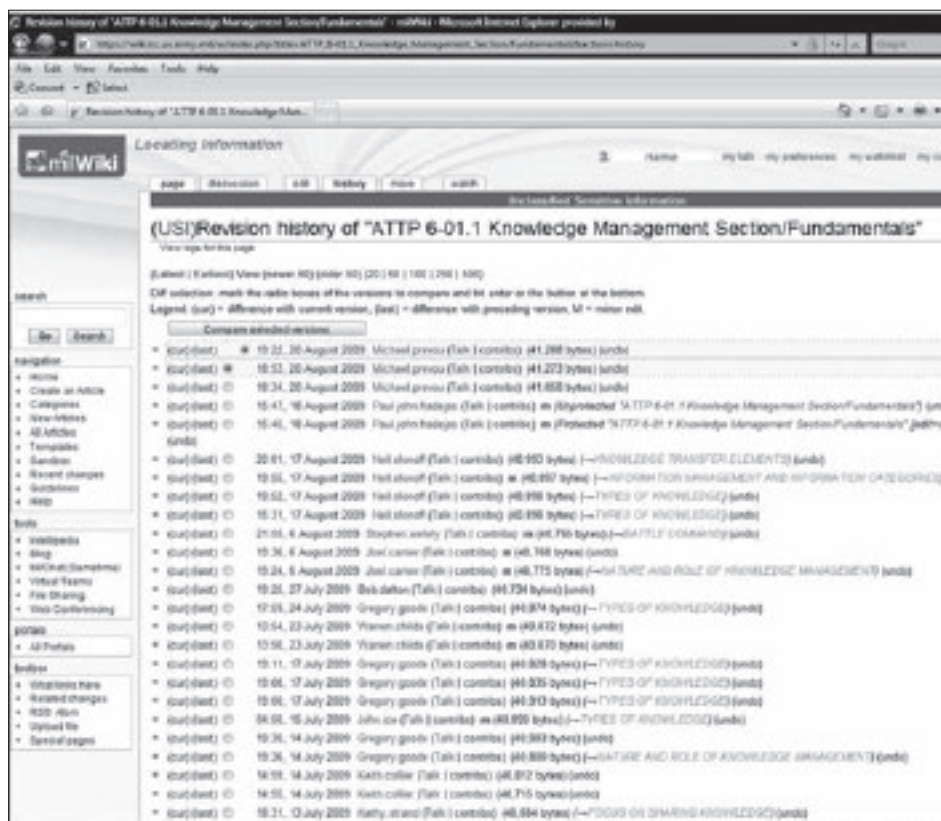
It's a fundamental change to drafting and distributing Army doctrine, Ancker acknowledged.

With the wiki format, changes will be immediate, with oversight from different Army commands but no official approval required before publication on the Web. Currently, the secretary of the Army must endorse each manual, which can take 18 months to five years to update and publish.

"I was somewhat taken aback," said Ancker, who served 31 years, when first hearing about the wiki concept in March. "I had very mixed feelings about it. We have to ensure that we have some checks and balances."

Now, Ancker says, he's sold.

The idea came after a review this spring of all Army doctrine, said Ancker, the director of the Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate in Leavenworth,



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The Army has plans to put about 230 field operations manuals into a Wikipedia-style format, accessible through Army Knowledge Online, to let soldiers of all ranks edit or change Army guidelines. Until Oct. 2, soldiers with an Army account and a military identification card can make changes to 17 manuals in a pilot program.

Kan. When the project began, the scope of instructions had grown so vast no one knew exactly how many field manuals existed.

They eventually tracked down about 550 field manuals. Already, the Army has rescinded 53. It has reclassified most of the remaining ones as fundamental (94 that define core Army principles) or technical (108 that tell soldiers how to do systematic work like fix a truck or repair a gun).

About 230 operations manuals — which will be renamed Army Tactics, Techniques and Procedures manuals — define what troops should do in the field, whether at war or in a humanitarian crisis, Ancker said.

On July 2, the Army put 10 of those manuals online for a trial run. As of last week, all 17 manuals in the pilot program had 14,318 hits with about 70 content changes made, he said.

None of the suggestions, he said, have involved anything "silly" or "malicious."

That's not always been the case with Wikipedia, the Web site that first invited the public to create an infinite online encyclopedia. Now it is reining in some of its contributors.

Last week, the nonprofit's chairman announced plans to review entries made on articles about living people. The New

York Times recently picked the announcement as its quote of the week: "We are no longer at the point that it is acceptable to throw things at the wall and see what sticks," Wikipedia chairman Michael Snow said.

Because soldiers must use their Army Knowledge Online accounts to login, no changes to the Army manuals will be anonymous. Also, Army officials expect soldiers to comment primarily on their own jobs. That means changes on unmanned aerial systems, for example, would likely come from a relatively small community of soldiers who operate and train on the systems each day.

"They are not going to put something on there that doesn't make sense," Ancker said.

If they do, he added, others can chime in and make further changes. Any changes affecting a specific command, such as medicine, will be sent directly to that command for notification and review.

For now, the changes to the 17 manuals will not be permanent, Ancker said, and there is no set timeline for launching the entire wiki project. First, the Army has to figure out what policy changes are needed to allow a soldier rather than the secretary of the Army to approve an edit in a manual.

Also, the Army is contracting the job of putting the manuals into a wiki format, which will cost about \$400,000, Ancker said. Overall, the entire manual review project is estimated to cost less than \$1 million, he said.

Parts of those 230 manuals will remain unchangeable. Certain aspects of doctrine, such as safety checks on a helicopter, won't be malleable, Ancker said. But getting patients into a helo and off the ground will.

"There is a risk," he said of the open forum. "But that is far outweighed by the benefits."

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New schools set to open in S. Korea over next 2 years

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — U.S. Forces Korea and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Korea will open two new schools in areas I and IV during the next two years, allowing more command-sponsored families to move to the peninsula, school and military officials said Thursday.

The first school will open at Camp Casey in August 2010 with space for about 300 kindergarten through eighth-grade students, expanding to an enrollment of 600 by August 2011. The second, a high school, will open at U.S. Army Garrison-Daegu in August 2011 and have a capacity of 500 students.

"This is bridging a gap, if you will," said Col. Cliff Crofford, deputy region commander for transformation, Installation Management Command-Korea.

There are currently no DODDS schools in Area I. Daegu has one school that serves grades K-12.

"This is bridging a gap, if you will."

Col. Cliff Crofford

deputy region commander for transformation,
Installation Management Command-Korea

Crofford said the number of troops who can bring their families to South Korea on command-sponsored tours is limited by the space available at schools.

He said the new school at Casey, which is expected to close as troops eventually relocate to Pyeongtaek, will stay open until it's no longer needed. Dates for the relocation have not been fixed.

Daegu will remain open under the relocation plan, and the new school will remain open until new schools are built.

USFK announced in late 2008 that it would slowly begin increasing the number of command-sponsored slots to the point where half of all troops stationed here will eventually be allowed to bring

their families.

Enrollment in South Korea is at or near capacity in all schools, said superintendent Irby Miller. On Thursday, four days after the start of the 2009-10 school year, 4,176 students were enrolled, just short of last year's average enrollment of 4,200, school officials said. Enrollment peaked at 4,267 last year and typically fluctuates throughout the year as families move.

Miller said the new Casey school might not be full when it opens, but it is expected to grow to capacity.

Officials said they decided Wednesday to open two schools after gathering information about when they could open the schools, including whether they could get adequate facilities and staffing.

Both schools will be in renovated buildings. At Casey, the school will open in what are now barracks, in Building 2400, with a second wing opening in Building 2409 in 2011.

At Daegu, the school will be housed in partially unoccupied Building S330, which

houses a dining facility.

Crofford said the Area I school will cost \$12.2 million by 2011 and the Area IV school will cost \$9.9 million.

The number of teachers at each school will be based on enrollment, assistant superintendent Peter Grenier said. He said enrollment and teacher numbers in Area II, which includes U.S. Army Garrison-Yongsan, are unlikely to be affected by the school openings.

"If anything, they will probably remain more stable," he said.

Eighty-two Area I students are attending international schools at DODDS-Korea's expense because there are no DOD schools, school officials said. Enrollment at those schools is about \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year, they said.

Eleven students are now bused from Area I to Yongsan, leaving at 6 each morning, the officials said.

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"The other guys kept telling him 'Bernard, you're doing fine, you're doing fine. You're gonna make it. Stay with me, Bernard!'"

Julie Jacobson, Associated Press photographer

Marine: Taliban ambush claims casualty

MARINE, FROM PAGE 1

As dusk approached on Friday, Aug. 14, things had quieted down. The Taliban seemed to have gone. Another day had passed in the long, hard slog for U.S. troops serving on the parched plains and mountains of Afghanistan in a war that has steadily intensified.

Then, as the Marines were enjoying some downtime, reports of mortar, machine-gun and sniper fire sent them scrambling again. The 11 Americans and 10 Afghan soldiers edged their way into the town's abandoned bazaar. With them were Associated Press correspondent Alfred de Montesquiou, AP photographer Julie Jacobson and AP Television News cameraman Ken Teh.

Eyes scanning rooftops for gunmen and the ground for buried bombs, the patrol pushed past shops still smoldering from U.S. mortar shells, past Taliban posters on the walls exhorting the populace to fight the Americans. Bernard, his face daubed in gray and brown camouflage paint, was the point man.

A young Afghan in front of the family store showed the patrol a patch of up-turned earth in a ditch. It was here that insurgents had fired their mortars a few minutes earlier.

"But don't say I told you, or they'll kill me," the man said.

As he spoke, the Marines got word of the ambush being readied nearby. Two Cobra helicopters circling overhead fired Hellfire missiles at a mortar position. The Marines weren't sure that had settled the matter with the Taliban. They pushed on.

Then they reached the pomegranate grove.

A casualty, then heavy fire

At first Jake Godby thought Bernard had stepped on an explosive device. Godby, a 24-year-old 2nd lieutenant from Fredericksburg, Va., quickly regrouped his men and directed the returning fire.

The squad found itself stuck under sustained and heavy fire with a wounded man on a narrow crossroad — buildings behind them, insurgents hidden in the orchard in front of them, and a large puddle from a broken water pump in the middle.

Godby had the troops advance to the cover of a mud wall and an irrigation ditch. The orange streaks of bullets whizzing in every direction grew visible as the light faded.

"That's when I realized there was a casualty and saw the injured Marine, about 10 yards from where I'd stood," Jacobson would write in her journal. "For the second time in my life, I watched a Marine lose his



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Afghan National Army soldiers approach an intersection near a pomegranate grove where Taliban fighters lie in wait in the village of Dahaneh while on patrol with U.S. Marines from Company G, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, on Aug. 14 in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. Moments later, the Taliban opened fire, killing Lance Cpl. Joshua Bernard with a rocket-propelled grenade.

life. He was hit with the RPG which blew off one of his legs and badly mangled the other. ...

"I hadn't seen it happen, just heard the explosion. I hit the ground and lay as flat as I could and shot what I could of the scene."

Bernard lay on the ground, two Marines standing over him exposed, trying to help. A tourniquet on Bernard's leg broke. A medic applied another.

"I can't breathe, I can't breathe," Bernard said.

Troops crawling under the bullets dragged him to the mine-resistant armored vehicle that accompanied the patrol.

"The other guys kept telling him 'Bernard, you're doing fine, you're doing fine. You're gonna make it. Stay with me, Bernard!'"

"He (a Marine) held Bernard's head in his hands when he seemed to go limp and tried to keep him awake. A couple more ran in with a stretcher," Jacobson recalled in the journal.

Marine evacuated

The rocket-propelled grenade exploded in a powerful pinkish blast, lighting up the scene and briefly knocking out Staff Sgt. Alexander Ferguson. When Ferguson re-

covered, he helped haul Bernard inside the vehicle. Bernard was driven back to base some 500 yards from there, receiving first aid along the way.

Minutes later, a helicopter evacuated him to Camp Leatherneck, the main Marine compound in southern Afghanistan. His vital signs were stable when he left.

At the ambush site, the fighting continued uninterrupted for 10 to 15 minutes. The men could see the grenades coming in at them, and even some of the machine gunners. They estimated they were facing six to eight fighters.

SEE MARINE ON PAGE 5



Chow and Wow!

After work fun ideas

Read After Hours
on page 15,
every Sunday in

STARS AND STRIPES
Scene

Gay former sailor says hazing led to PTSD

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Former Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Rocha says he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder after being physically and sexually abused by fellow sailors over a two-year period. But after a Navy investigation into widespread hazing allegations within the unit, the only sailor discharged was Rocha, because he also admitted that he is gay.

According to documents released by Youth Radio this week, Navy investigators found dozens of hazing incidents over a two-year span at the Military Working Dog unit in Naval Support Activity-Bahrain. At

one point, the documents show, Rocha was hog-tied, fed dog food and tossed into a dog kennel full of feces. Commanders also openly questioned his sexuality and forced him to simulate oral sex on other men.

Following the investigation, Rocha sought treatment for PTSD and later admitted he is gay, the news outlet reported. Shortly thereafter, he was discharged under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which prohibits homosexual troops from serving openly in the ranks.

However, the commander in charge of the unit at the time of the hazing did not lose his job, and was recently promoted to senior chief, documents show.

None of the alleged abusers was punished, according to the report.

The news organization received heavily redacted copies of the Navy's investigation and findings into the incident, but naval officials at the Pentagon said they could not comment on details of the case. Calls to Navy Region Europe officials, who oversaw the Bahrain unit, were not returned.

According to the reports, commanders routinely abused and insulted subordinate sailors from 2004 to 2006, until investigators began looking into the charges. They found at least 93 incidents of abuse, but naval officials would not comment on any disciplinary action.

In several cases, male sailors were forced to simulate gay sex acts on other men, both during public training sessions and as punishment for mistakes. In one instance, two women in the division were handcuffed to a bed and forced to imitate lesbian sex while other sailors videotaped them.

In a statement Thursday, Aaron Belkin, director of the University of California's Palm Center — which opposes the "don't ask" law — blasted the Navy over the incident.

"It is very hard for an organization to get rid of abuse as long as discrimination remains official policy," he said.

Marine: Family mourns; criticizes shift in Afghan war rules

MARINE, FROM PAGE 4

The fighting ebbed with nightfall. Godby and some of the Marines equipped with night-vision glasses pushed deeper into the orchard, but the insurgents were gone. Intelligence pointed to three enemy dead, several Marines said, but it could not be confirmed.

That night, officers assembled the platoon in a darkened room of the rundown house where the Marines had camped after taking Dahaneh two days earlier. There, the officers delivered the news: Bernard had died of a blood clot in his heart on the operating table. He was Company G's third fatality since it arrived in Afghanistan in May.

Bernard was the 19th American to die in Afghanistan in August, which was the deadliest month for American servicemembers in the war. Of the 739 Americans killed in and around Afghanistan since 2001, 151 died last year and 180 so far this year.

A son remembered

Down a rural dirt road in New Portland, western Maine, John and Sharon Bernard sat on their porch and talked about their son. Joshua, they said, loved literature and showed early interest in the Bible and Christianity.

"He had a very strong faith right from the beginning," his mother said.

His father described him as "humble, shy, unassuming — the very first to offer help."

He didn't smoke or drink, and always opened the door for others. His main friends were his church group, whom he would visit when on leave, and his sister Katy, 20.

Bernard's father is a retired Marine first sergeant. Three weeks before the Aug. 14 ambush that killed his son, he had written to his congressman, Rep. Michael Michaud, expressing frustration at what he described as a change in the Afghanistan rules of engagement to one of "spare the civilians at all cost." He called that "disgraceful, immoral and fatal" to U.S. forces in combat.

Joshua loved video games and snowboarding, and hiked parts of the Appalachian Trail with his father. He hoped to become a U.S. marshal.

"Service and personal honor" is how his father summarized his son.

Three days after Bernard's



PHOTOS BY JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Above: U.S. Marine Cpl. Braxton Russell, left, tells one of his Marines to "light it up" if he sees any movement from a pomegranate grove where Taliban were believed to be lying in wait in the village of Dahaneh on Aug. 14 in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. Shortly after, a rocket-propelled grenade killed Lance Cpl. Joshua Bernard.

Below: U.S. Marine 2nd Lt. Jake Godby pays his respects to Bernard during a memorial service Aug. 27 at a forward operating base in Now Zad in Helmand province.

death, as his belongings were being packed for shipment to his family, Cpl. Joshua Jackson, his squad leader, was still referring to him in the present tense.

"He definitely doesn't hesitate," said Jackson, 23, from Copley, Ohio. "He's very good, he definitely has the nerves to do what he's needed to do."

He called Bernard "a true-heartedly very good guy ... probably one of the best guys I've known in my entire life."

The hardest part is "just wondering if there's something that I could have done different, or maybe prevented him from dying," Jackson said. "But that's something we've all got to deal with."

It had all gone very quickly. It was late afternoon when the Taliban fired their first RPGs. It was dusk when the Marine was driven away in the armored vehicle. And it was night when the patrol returning to base saw the dark silhouette of the helicopter that flew him away.

Lance Cpl. Joshua "Bernie" Bernard was 21 years old.

Glenn Adams contributed to this report from New Portland, Maine.



Gates says Obama is reviewing war report

By JEFF SCHOGOL
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — President Barack Obama is reviewing the long-awaited Afghanistan assessment, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday, and the two will meet early next week to discuss strategy.

The assessment from the top U.S. and NATO commander in the country, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, did not call for sending more troops to Afghanistan, but that could come soon.

"I would expect that any request for additional resources would follow after this process and be similarly discussed by the president's national security team," he said.

The U.S. troop strength in Afghanistan is expected to reach 68,000 this year, and McChrystal could ask for up to 45,000 extra troops, according to media reports.

Gates said he was aware of a series of public opinion polls that have shown Americans' increasingly negative views toward the Afghan effort and toward devoting more U.S. forces.

"The nation has been at war for eight years," Gates said.

"The fact that Americans would be tired of having of their sons and daughters at risk and in battle is not surprising. I think what is important is for us to be able to show over the months to come that the president's strategy is succeeding, and that is what Gen. McChrystal is putting in front of us."

Joint Chiefs Chair Adm. Mike Mullen said McChrystal has offered in "frank and candid terms how he believes his forces can best accomplish the mission the president has assigned to him."

Details of the assessment have not been released.

"There has been enormous focus on troop numbers and time lines lately — lots of conjecture, lots of speculation," Mullen said. "I understand the interest in those things, and it's legitimate, but those numbers represent real units, real people and real families."

The Joint Chiefs have already discussed the assessment twice and they plan to meet at least once more on the matter, he said.

"My intention is to wrap up our review by Friday," he said. "Our job, and it's one we take very seriously, is to provide the secretary and the president our best military advice."

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Infantry infusion part of Afghan plan

By JULIAN E. BARNES
McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials are planning to add as many as 14,000 combat troops to the American force in Afghanistan by sending home support staff and underutilized soldiers and replacing them with infantry units, Defense officials said.

The plan represents a key step in a drive to beef up U.S.-led forces as the Obama administration presses to counter Taliban gains and demonstrate progress amid crumbling public support for the war effort.

Forces that could be swapped out include units assigned to non-combat duty, such as guards or lookouts, or those on clerical and support squads.

"It makes sense to get rid of the clerks and replace them with trigger-pullers," said one Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the plans have not been announced.

The changes will not offset the potential need for additional troops in the future, but could re-



DIMA GAVRYSH/AP

A U.S. soldier watches the sun set at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, on Wednesday. A new plan to add as many as 14,000 combat troops to the U.S. force in Afghanistan by sending home support staff and underutilized soldiers is likely to increase the number of private contractors in the war zone.

duce the size of any request from Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, the top U.S. and allied commander, officials said.

The plan reflects the view that after eight years of war, much of the military bureaucracy that has

built up no longer serves a useful purpose. Services performed by soldiers that are no longer considered crucial could be outsourced to contractors or eliminated, officials said.

However, the change is likely

to increase the number of private contractors in the war zone, a source of controversy in Iraq and a growing issue in Afghanistan.

The move comes as McChrystal this week submitted a broad assessment of the Afghan war effort, calling the situation there "serious." Details of the assessment remain secret, but officials said it did not contain a request for more troops. Such a request could be submitted in coming weeks.

The planned changes in the U.S. troop mix are part of what military officials call a "force optimization" review, a critical mid-step between the assessment and a request for additional troops, designed to ensure the existing force is operating as efficiently as possible.

Defense officials said they did not know how many positions and jobs might be eliminated until the review was completed. But two officials estimated the total could be between 6,000 and 14,000 troops.

Embassy: Ambassador working to address some problems

EMBASSY, FROM PAGE 1

The alleged mistreatment occurred at their off-site living quarters.

The State Department inspector general is leading an investigation of the contractor, ArmorGroup North America.

Ambassador Karl Eikenberry held a meeting with his staff on Thursday to discuss the situation, said embassy spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden.

"We've already started to make changes to remedy some of the problems," Hayden said.

Alcohol has been prohibited at Camp Sullivan — the off-site location where ArmorGroup guards live — and diplomatic security staff have been assigned to the camp, the em-

bassy said.

The embassy "will continue to take every possible step to ensure the safety and security of American Embassy personnel, while respecting the values of all Afghans, Americans and contract employees and visitors from other countries," a statement said.

The ArmorGroup security personnel guard the gates to the embassy road and perimeter and screen visitors. The Project on Government Oversight, an independent watchdog group, said the nearly 450 ArmorGroup guards live and work in an oppressive environment in which they are subjected to hazing and other inappropriate behavior by supervisors.

In at least one case, supervisors brought

prostitutes into the quarters where the guards live, a serious breach of security and discipline, the group said this week.

In other instances, members of the guard force drew Afghans into activities forbidden by Muslims, such as drinking alcoholic beverages, it said.

The situation led to a breakdown of morale and leadership that has compromised security at the embassy, where nearly 1,000 U.S. diplomats, staff and Afghan nationals work, according to the nonprofit group.

The embassy has been targeted in insurgent rocket attacks, and suicide bombs have exploded at or near its gates. Militant attacks have risen across Afghanistan the last three years.

August's Iraqi death toll worst of 2009

BAGHDAD — Insurgent attacks produced the highest monthly death toll among Iraqis in 13 months, according to Iraqi government figures, with August marred by suicide bombings in the north and a high-profile assault on government ministries in Baghdad.

The spike in violence stoked concern that security is deteriorating with the withdrawal of most U.S. troops from Iraqi cities on June 30 and the approach of national elections in January.

A total of 456 Iraqi civilians and security personnel were killed in attacks in August, the Iraqi government figures show. It was the deadliest month since July 2008, when 465 Iraqis died violently, though the tally was far lower than the height of the civil war in 2006 and 2007 when the monthly death toll sometimes soared past 2,000. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has blamed the attacks on elements of late dictator Saddam Hussein's Baath Party.

From The Los Angeles Times



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Gunmen shoot 17 dead at Mexican rehab

The Associated Press

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — Gunmen broke into a drug rehabilitation center and killed 17 in a particularly bloody day in Mexico's relentless drug war. The brazen attack followed the killing of the No. 2 security official in President Felipe Calderon's home state.

The attackers on Wednesday broke down the door of El Aliviano center in Ciudad Juarez, lined up their victims against a wall and opened fire, said Arturo Sandoval, a spokesman for the regional prosecutors' office. At least five people were injured.

Authorities had no immediate suspects or information on the victims. Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas, is Mexico's most violent city, with at least 1,400 people killed this year alone.

Dozens of sobbing relatives rushed to the rehabilitation center to find out if their loved ones were among the dead. Soldiers and federal agents patrolled the streets surrounding the center in the Bellavista neighborhood.

Calderon sent thousands more troops and federal police to Ciudad Juarez earlier this year, but the surge has done little to stem the raging violence.

The city is home to the Juarez drug cartel, which is battling other gangs for trafficking and



AP photos

Masked police officers stand outside of a drug rehabilitation center after gunmen shot 17 dead in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, late Wednesday.

dealing turf.

The government is struggling to revamp Ciudad Juarez's police force, which is plagued by corruption and the assassination of many of its officers. Other police have quit the force out of fear of being targeted.

Earlier, gunmen killed the No. 2 security official and three other people in Calderon's home state of Michoacan, where the government is locked in an intensifying battle with the ruthless La Familia cartel, blamed for a string of assassinations of police and

soldiers.

Jose Manuel Revuelta, who was promoted less than two weeks ago to state deputy public safety director, is the highest-ranking government official killed in the wave of assassinations sweeping Michoacan, the cradle of La

Familia.

Attackers drove up alongside Revuelta as he headed home and opened fire, state Attorney General Jesus Montejano said.

Revuelta tried to speed away, but only made it a few blocks before he was intercepted by two vehicles.

Six gunmen got out and sprayed Revuelta's car with bullets, killing him, two bodyguards and a truck driver caught in the cross-fire, Montejano said.

Soldiers and federal police have intensified their fight against La Familia since accusing the cartel of killing 18 federal agents and two soldiers last month. In the worst attack, 12 federal agents were slain and their tortured bodies piled along a roadside as a warning.

It was the boldest cartel attack yet on Mexico's government. Authorities said say La Familia was retaliating for the arrest of one of its top members. Calderon first launched his crackdown against drug cartels in Michoacan, sending thousands of federal police and soldiers to his home state after taking office in late 2006. Tens of thousands more have since been deployed to drug hot-spots across Mexico.

Drug gang violence has since surged, claiming more than 13,500 lives, including more than 1,000 police officers.



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Court orders renewed probe in Russian slaying

MOSCOW — Russia's Supreme Court reversed a lower court and granted a request for a broader probe into the slaying of reporter Anna Politkovskaya, who was gunned down in Moscow in 2006.

Politkovskaya's children have criticized the state for focusing on three suspects accused of minor roles in the shooting, saying justice won't be done until the gunman and the mastermind of the slaying are found and punished.

Lawyer Karinna Moskalenko, who represents Politkovskaya's family, emphasized the new ruling did not dispel concerns about the government's willingness to conduct a complete, honest probe that rights advocates believe could lead back to people in power. "Whether the Prosecutor General's office will use this new opportunity we cannot say," she said. "We can only hope."

Indian politician killed in helicopter crash

HYDERABAD, India — Rescuers retrieved the bodies Thursday of an Indian politician and four others whose helicopter crashed in dense jungles during a pounding rainstorm.

The helicopter — carrying Y.S.R. Reddy, chief minister of Andhra Pradesh state — lost contact with air traffic controllers Wednesday morning, setting off a 24-hour search operation. Air force helicopters found the crash site Thursday morning, by tracking a mobile phone signal.

A devout Christian in Hindu-majority India, Reddy worked his way into the Congress leadership over the past three decades by taking up the cause of poor farmers and landless laborers. He won a second term in office in May elections.

Jury told teen sought explosives for massacre

LONDON — A British jury has been told that a teenager accused of plotting a Columbine-inspired school massacre tried to buy an ingredient for a homemade bomb.

Phillipa Knowles testified Thursday that classmate Matthew Swift, 18, had asked her to buy him hydrogen peroxide, saying he wanted it to make explosives.

Prosecutors say Swift and Ross McKnight, 16, planned to bomb a shopping center before killing teachers and students at their school on the 10th anniversary of the April 1999 massacre in Colorado. They say the pair dubbed the plot "Project Rainbow" and boasted it would be "the greatest massacre ever."

Dictator's son declared winner in Gabon vote

LIBREVILLE, Gabon — The eldest son of Gabon's late dictator, Omar Bongo, was declared the winner of weekend presidential elections, triggering allegations of fraud.

Within hours of the announcement by the country's interior minister, the French Consulate in Port Gentil, 100 miles south of Libreville, was torched and nearby shops ransacked, a local TV station reported.

From The Associated Press



Workers remove wooden boards from a coffee shop Wednesday, a day after Hurricane Jimena passed Cabo San Lucas in Mexico's western Baja California peninsula.

GUILLERMO ARIAS/AP

Baja gets back to normal

Jimena weakens quickly after hitting Mexico

By MARK STEVENSON
The Associated Press

LOS CABOS, Mexico — A once-dangerous and powerful Hurricane Jimena mellowed into a wet and windy tropical storm Thursday, bringing much needed rain to Mexico's drought-stricken Baja California peninsula.

Forecasters still warned Thursday of flash floods and large waves, but even those were expected to gradually subside.

Earlier this week, tourists evacuated and residents sought shelter as Jimena roared to-

ward the multimillion-dollar resorts of Los Cabos as a Category 4 hurricane, with winds topping 150 mph. But the beaches and condominiums where Hollywood stars vacation year-round were mostly spared, and the hurricane has since moved its way north ripping off some roofs and toppling power poles in smaller farm towns and fishing villages.

Loreto, the nearest significant resort town to the area where Jimena made landfall, suffered some damage to homes and streets, as well as Ciudad Constitucion, an inland town. But a few days in, the benefits

of this Pacific storm were starting to outweigh the damage.

"Fortunately, this kind of weather phenomenon we're going through transports a lot of water," National Water Commissioner Jose Luis Luege Tamargo told the Cabo Mill radio station. "This rain undoubtedly will fill up the aquifers of the whole region."

Jimena was not expected to provide any relief from fierce wildfires in Southern California, however, according to Dennis Feltgen, a spokesman for the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Japan's premier: U.S. alliance is central to foreign policy

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's incoming Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama reassured U.S. leaders Thursday that their security alliance remains the foundation of its foreign policy, despite pre-election promises that Tokyo would seek a more independent path.

Hatoyama's Democratic Party of Japan, meanwhile, neared an agreement with two smaller parties Thursday on launching a coalition to push aside the outgoing Liberal Democratic Party, rein in the national bureaucracy, and set a new course for the world's second-largest economy.

The party won 308 of the 480 seats in the powerful lower house of parliament in Sunday's elections. The landslide victory ended decades of rule by the Liberal Democrats.

Hatoyama, to be installed as premier on Sept. 16, spoke with

President Barack Obama by telephone early Thursday and then paid a visit to Washington's new ambassador to Japan for his first discussions with any diplomats here.

Hatoyama assured Obama the U.S.-Japan security alliance remains the "foundation" of Japan's foreign policy.

"The talks were cordial," Hatoyama told reporters Thursday. "I think we will have good relations."

During the election campaign, Hatoyama said he would end Japan's refueling operations in the Indian Ocean in support of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, and questioned plans to relocate a U.S. Marine air station on the southern island of Okinawa.

He later toned down his rhetoric, insisting the U.S.-Japan alliance is vital to Tokyo's foreign relations — a point he stressed in his phone call with Obama and



SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/AP

Democratic Party of Japan leader Yukio Hatoyama stands in front of a poster of himself Thursday in Tokyo. The Japanese words say "change of government."

his meeting with Ambassador John Roos.

Under pressure from coalition partners such as the Social Democratic Party, which is expected to be a part of Hatoyama's yet-to-be-named Cabinet, he has said he will let the refueling mission end when its mandate finishes in January.

Syringe attacks in China spark new protests

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Hundreds of Chinese protested deteriorating public safety Thursday after a series of syringe attacks further unnerved residents in Urumqi where ethnic rioting in July killed nearly 200 people.

Residents reached by telephone said hundreds marched peacefully in the city, waving flags, demanding local Communist Party leaders step down and shouting "severely punish the hooligans," a reference to the July 5 rioters.

Thursday's protest came after days of rumors that gangs roamed the city stabbing mostly Han people with hypodermic needles, scaring residents. City officials and state media confirmed the attacks, saying 21 had been detained. A report said 476 people sought treatment for stabbing, though only 89 had obvious signs of being pricked.

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Rescuers look for bodies after Indonesia quake

By IRWIN FEDRIANSYAH
The Associated Press

CIKANGKARENG, Indonesia — Indonesian rescue workers pulled bodies Thursday from homes buried in a landslide triggered by a powerful earthquake that killed at least 57 people and severely damaged more than 10,000 buildings.

At least 125 people were hospitalized with serious injuries and more than 5,300 others were in need of shelter because of Wednesday's 7.0-magnitude quake, according to ealth Ministry Crisis Center chief Rustam Pakaya

"Everything is gone, my wife, my old father-in-law and my house ... now I just hope to find the bodies of my family," 34-year-old farmer Ahmad Suhana said as he pried at giant stones with a crowbar.

Heavy digging equipment had not reached parts of the worst

affected district in West Java province, which President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono visited Thursday. Police, military personnel and villagers used their hands to remove rubble.

Yudhoyono cautioned rescue workers to be wary of dozens of aftershocks "although they are becoming less powerful." He pledged \$500,000 in national assistance to help victims.

More than 24,800 homes, offices, schools and mosques were damaged, about 10,000 seriously, the Disaster Management Agency said on its Web site. At least 3,100 people were forced into temporary shelters, and the Red Cross said it distributed 1,500 tents, as well as blankets, clean water and other provisions.

Some rural areas, particularly along the southern coast, could not be reached by telephone and there may be more victims and damage, officials said.



Residents walk by the ruins of houses destroyed by an earthquake in Pengalengan, West Java, Indonesia, on Thursday. Dozens of people were killed and missing after a strong earthquake rocked southern Indonesia on Wednesday.

KUSUMADIREZA/AP

Many of the deaths and injuries were caused by falling debris or collapsed structures.

The death toll continued to rise Thursday. More than a dozen bodies were dug out of the rubble in Cianjur district, where a landslide buried a row of homes in the village of Cikangkareng.

Villagers were searching for more than 30 friends and relatives listed as missing and feared dead.

Maskana Sumitra, a district administrator, said 11 houses and a mosque were buried by the landslide.

"The chance of survival is so slim ... but we have to find them,"

Sumitra said.

When the quake struck Wednesday afternoon, it was felt hundreds of miles away on the neighboring resort island of Bali.

In the capital, Jakarta, 125 miles north of the underwater epicenter, thousands of panicked office workers flooded out of swaying skyscrapers onto the streets, some of them screaming.

A tsunami warning was issued after the quake but was lifted an hour later.

Hospitals in towns and cities across West Java quickly filled with scores of injured people, most with broken bones and cuts.

In Cikangkareng, Dede Kur-

niati said her 9-year-old son was playing at a friend's house when the earthquake struck and is now "buried under the rocks."

"I lost my son ... now I just want to see his body, I want to bury my lovely son properly," she said, weeping.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago, straddles continental plates and is prone to seismic activity along what is known as the Pacific Ring of Fire.

A huge quake off western Indonesia caused a powerful tsunami in December 2004 that killed about 230,000 people in a dozen countries, half of them in Aceh province.



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A building in Warsaw still bears scars from fighting during World War II even 70 years after the outbreak of the conflict, in Warsaw, Poland. Tuesday was the 70th anniversary of the start of the war.

CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI/AP

Seven decades after the end of WWII, Poland's wounds have yet to heal

By VANESSA GERA
The Associated Press

In Germany, Erika Steinbach is hardly a household name. But in neighboring Poland she is a national hate figure, caricatured on magazine covers as a Nazi in SS uniform.

Her offense, in Polish eyes, is that she claims to speak for the millions of ethnic Germans who were expelled from their homes in Poland and elsewhere in eastern Europe after World War II. These accusers say she is revising history and drawing a moral parallel between the cruelties the Germans inflicted and the sufferings they later endured.

The recriminations go to the heart of the resentments that still bubble up from the war that broke out with Hitler's attack on Poland on Sept. 1, 1939.

As Polish, German and Russian leaders joined Tuesday to mark the anniversary, Polish-German relations are at one level an idyll of open borders and shared membership in the prosperous, democratic European Union.

But at another level, they are one rancorous episode after another: a Polish prime minister demanding greater voting power in European forums to make up for Poland's war-related loss of population; a German magazine article that stirs Polish outrage by saying Germany had the willing help of Poles and others in executing its genocidal actions; and now a new museum in Berlin, championed by Steinbach, that will exhibit the hardships of the

world's refugees through history.

Steinbach, 67, strenuously denies minimizing Poland's afflictions. But she is a lightning rod for Poles' fears that future generations of Germans will grow up in a historical muddle about the war and its aftermath.

What irks the Poles most is Steinbach and her Federation of the Expellees, the group that demands recognition of the suffering inflicted on some 14 million Germans when the postwar borders were redrawn and they were driven out of their homes.

When Steinbach pushed for the Berlin museum, Poland's government was indignant, seeing it as a sign that Germans were trying to play down their crimes and highlight their own suffering and resistance to Hitler's regime.

"We don't like these activities," said Romualda Tudrej, an 82-year-old woman who fought in Poland's anti-Nazi resistance. "The Germans are unfortunately changing history a little. There's a new generation now, and this generation wants to have heroes and not the bandits that it actually had

for ancestors."

As tempers rose, Poland lobbied to block Steinbach's appointment to head the board of the planned museum. It would be tantamount to putting a Holocaust denier in charge of relations with Israel, charged Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, an Auschwitz survivor and Polish government representative on German issues, in an interview with Poland's Dziennik newspaper.

After much discussion between Warsaw and Berlin, Poland last year consented to a German government-backed museum in Berlin to be called the "Center against Expulsions."

At a gathering of Steinbach's federation Aug. 23, German Chancellor Angela Merkel defended the idea, saying that the history of flight and expulsions is "part of our national identity and part of our shared cultural memory." But she insisted it did not mean Germany wants to diminish its responsibility for starting the war.

"We will not forget: This was a direct consequence of the German war and the Nazi tyranny,"

she said. "Yes, we admit our responsibility for the darkest chapter in Germany's history — there is no reinterpretation of history."

Many Poles are still not convinced, and to them, Steinbach's own biography is salt in their wounds: Her family was not native to Poland but came there when her father was assigned to the German occupation forces as a Luftwaffe technician.

Steinbach's supporters say she is being maligned. They note that she has distanced herself from even more controversial efforts by a tiny number of Germans to regain prewar family property now in Poland.

To most Germans, the expelled are a marginal issue, of relevance only to an elderly, dwindling group, and the Poles' fears tend to be seen as exaggerated or unfounded.

They can point to the hundreds of memorials across Germany honoring victims of the Nazis, the compensation Germany paid to millions of Hitler's victims, the more than \$22 billion invested by Germans in Poland since

the Cold War ended.

Relations are much better between younger Poles and Germans, especially those who have studied or worked in each other's countries.

"I have nothing against Germans," said Piotr Roguski, 39, a real estate agent in Warsaw. "For me, contemporary Germans and the Germans of World War II are two different things."

Angelica Schwall-Dueren, of the German-Polish Society that promotes cooperation and cross-border exchanges between the two nations, calls today's relationship a "political and humanitarian miracle," given the shared horrors of the past.



Residents of Wielun, Poland, clean up Sept. 1, 1939, after the town was bombed by the German Luftwaffe in the first bombing of World War II.

MUSEUM OF WIELUN/AP

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U.S., Australia seek exercises with Chinese

Military training aimed at easing fears about China's growing power

The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Australia and the United States will invite China to take part in joint military exercises to help ease fears about China's growing military power and improve ties, the top U.S. military officer in the Pacific was quoted as saying in a report Thursday.

U.S. Adm. Timothy Keating and Australian Defense Force Commander Angus Houston met in Sydney this week and agreed to approach China's Ministry of National Defense about holding joint naval and land exercises "at the earliest opportunity," The Sydney Morning Herald quoted Keating as saying.

Concerns about China's military expansion and strained relations between Beijing and Canberra highlight the need for improved military and diplomatic ties, Keating said.

"We are anxious to engage with them," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "We want to under-

stand much better than we do now China's intentions."

On Wednesday, Keating said that the U.S. had resumed talks with China's military for the first time in 10 months, amid concerns in Washington over some of the weapons systems Beijing is developing.

Keating said the talks, which started over the weekend, were a "positive signal that China is willing to engage" and would be instrumental in understanding "where they intend to go with their weapons systems and how we can avoid them becoming a threat."

He said some of the weapons and military capabilities "don't appear to us to support their notion of peaceful rise and harmonious integration, so we will watch carefully with many others to see how that development unfolds."

The Chinese Embassy in Canberra said it was not authorized to comment on the proposed exercises.

New S. Korean PM named

The Associated Press

SEOUL — South Korean President Lee Myung-bak named an economics professor as his new prime minister on Thursday as part of a Cabinet reshuffle ahead of by-elections.

The shake-up also included the defense minister and five other ministers, presidential spokeswoman Kim Eun-hye told reporters.

Seoul National University Professor Chung Un-chan was nominated to replace Han Seung-soo

as prime minister, she said. The appointment is subject to parliamentary approval following a confirmation hearing.

The prime minister is the second-highest official, but is largely a ceremonial position.

"As a leading economics scholar in the country, nominee Chung is expected to faithfully back Lee's policy of supporting the working class," the spokeswoman said.

Lee also named Gen. Kim Tae-young, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as his new defense minister. He also replaced the ministers of justice, knowledge economy, labor, and gender equality, and named a ruling party lawmaker as a newly created special minister handling political affairs.



Chung

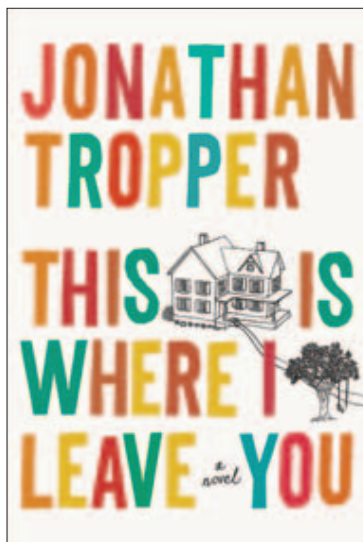
Praising Ganesh in Mumbai



KEVIN FRAYER/AP

Indian Hindu devotees splash water on a large statue of the elephant-headed Hindu God Ganesh before immersing it in the Arabian Sea on the final day of the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi that celebrates the birth of Ganesh in Mumbai, India, on Thursday.

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IN THE STATES

Pfizer fined \$2.3B for illegal drug promos

By DEVLIN BARRETT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutors hit Pfizer Inc. with a record-breaking \$2.3 billion in fines Wednesday and called the world's largest drugmaker a repeating corporate cheat for illegal drug promotions that plied doctors with free golf, massages, and resort junkets.

Announcing the penalty as a warning to all drug manufacturers, Justice Department officials said the overall settlement is the largest ever paid by a drug company for alleged violations of federal drug rules, and the \$1.2 billion criminal fine is the largest ever in any U.S. criminal case.

The total includes \$1 billion in civil penalties and a \$100 million criminal forfeiture.

Authorities called Pfizer a repeat offender, noting it is the company's fourth such settlement of government charges in the last decade.

Officials said the U.S. industry has paid out more than \$11 billion in such settlements over the past decade, but one consumer advocate voiced hope that Wednesday's penalty was so big it would curb the abuses.

"There's so much money in



Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced Pfizer will pay a record \$2.3 billion civil and criminal penalty over unlawful prescription drug promotions of Bextra.

selling pills, that there's a tremendous temptation to cheat," said Bill Vaughan, an analyst at Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports.

The government said the company promoted four prescription drugs, including the pain killer

Bextra, as treatments for medical conditions different from those the drugs had been approved for.

Authorities said Pfizer's salesmen and women created phony doctor requests for medical information in order to send unsolicited information to doctors about

unapproved uses and dosages.

Use of drugs for so-called "off-label" medical conditions is not uncommon, but drug manufacturers are prohibited from marketing drugs for uses that have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

The civil settlement was announced Wednesday and covered Pfizer's promotions of Bextra, blockbuster nerve pain and epilepsy treatment Lyrica, schizophrenia medicine Geodon, antibiotic Zynox and nine other medicines.

SEC inspector general claims agency bungled Madoff probes

By MARCY GORDON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pushing past years of "red flags," investigators at the Securities and Exchange Commission bungled their probes of Bernard Madoff so badly that his multibillion-dollar fraud not only flourished but he used the exams to suck in new investors, an agency watchdog declared Wednesday.

The report by the SEC inspector general shows that no smoking gun of corruption was found in the agency's conduct toward the disgraced financier.

Instead it painted a grim picture of an agency hobbled by incompetence — failing to pursue the most obvious leads — that cleared the way for Madoff to continue operating what could be the biggest Ponzi scheme in U.S. history for more than a decade.

One of the most striking points in the report is that the investigations actually may have made things worse.

"Madoff proactively informed potential investors that the SEC had examined his operations" and found nothing amiss, it says.

The fact that three SEC inspections and two investigations failed to detect the fraud gave credibility to Madoff's operations and encouraged more people to give him their money.

The report by inspector gen-

eral David Kotz cites no evidence of improper ties between agency officials and Madoff, nor of senior SEC officials trying to influence the agency's probes of his business.

Speculation had raged in December, when Madoff confessed to the scheme, that the financier's influence and ties to the SEC as a prominent Wall Street figure had prompted agency officials to pull their punches in investigations of his business.

The SEC enforcement staff "almost immediately caught [Madoff] in lies and misrepresentations but failed to follow up on inconsistencies" and rejected whistleblowers' offers to provide additional evidence, the report says.

"The fact that for 16 years [the SEC] had on blinders and earmuffs is mind-numbing," said Jacob Frenkel, a former SEC attorney and federal prosecutor now in private law practice.

Four high-ranking SEC officials who were lambasted over the Madoff affair at a congressional hearing in February — including the enforcement director and the head of the inspections office — have left the agency.

SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro, appointed by President Barack Obama, took the helm in January. Enforcement efforts have been strengthened, and the agency has started a number of initiatives



AP

Bernard Madoff is shown in federal court earlier this year in Manhattan. A recently-release SEC report takes a closer look into the financier's multi-billion dollar fraud.

meant to protect investors in the wake of the financial crisis, officials say.

Madoff, who pleaded guilty in March, has begun serving a 150-year sentence in federal prison in North Carolina for a pyramid scheme that destroyed thousands of people's life savings, wrecked charities and gave the financial system yet another big jolt. The legions of investors who lost money

included Hollywood celebrities, ordinary people and famous names in business and sports — as well as big hedge funds, international banks and charitable foundations worldwide.

Revelations in December of the SEC's failure to uncover Madoff's massive scheme over more than a decade touched off one of the most painful scandals in the agency's 75-year history.

Weak demand for biographies on financier

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sex and scandal have not been enough to make major sellers out of books about Bernard Madoff.

According to Nielsen BookScan, neither a much-discussed tell-all by alleged ex-mistress Sheryl Weinstein nor a recent wave of biographies about the imprisoned financier have caught on with the public.

Weinstein's "Madoff's Other Secret," a tabloid favorite published last month by St. Martin's Press, has sold just 2,000 copies. As of Wednesday night, it ranked No. 3,506 on Amazon.com.

Jerry Oppenheimer's "Madoff With the Money" has sold 1,000 copies. Gerard and Deborah Strober's "Catastrophe" and Andrew Kirtzman's "Betrayal" each sold 3,000. Erin Arvedlund's "Too Good To Be True" has been slightly more successful, selling 5,000 copies.

Nielsen BookScan tracks about 70 percent to 75 percent of the market.

Publishers had been so anxious to release Madoff books that the publication dates for "Madoff With the Money," "Betrayal" and "Too Good To Be True" were moved up from the fall to August.



Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., left, said he believes he can defeat President Obama's push for a nuclear test ban treaty. "I think they are dead set on ratifying it," he said. "That doesn't mean it is going to happen."



AP photos

Obama facing hurdles to nuclear disarmament

By DESMOND BUTLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Five months after President Barack Obama — with great fanfare — called for a world free of nuclear weapons, a crucial step toward that goal is running into resistance.

There is little indication Obama will have the votes he needs for a cornerstone of his nonproliferation efforts: Senate ratification of a nuclear test ban treaty. If Obama can't get the treaty approved, he probably will have a hard time persuading the rest of the world to rein in nuclear weapon programs.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, an advocacy group based in Washington, said the Obama administration needs to "work faster and harder" to build support in the Senate.

The absence of progress comes as a backdrop to the special U.N. session to be headed by Obama later this month. The summit Sept. 24 on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial session will seek broad consensus on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

Political realities have made

focusing on the test ban treaty difficult. Obama's top priorities these days are passing a massive health care overhaul and overcoming violence in Afghanistan. On arms control, his administration is now focused on another goal: securing a successor to a bilateral treaty with Russia that expires in December.

The treaty with Russia would amount to a small step toward the goal of a nuclear-free world that Obama outlined in April in a sweeping speech before a crowd of 20,000 in Prague. In the same speech, he promised to focus on the test ban treaty.

"My administration will immediately and aggressively pursue U.S. ratification," he said.

The administration says it is now working behind the scenes to build congressional support for the test ban treaty. "We are pushing very hard on all fronts," White House spokesman Mike Hammer said.

But supporters of that goal outside the administration say they have not seen evidence of urgency.

"If this pace continues, there is little chance he will achieve the goals he outlined," said Joseph

Cirincione, president of the San Francisco-based Ploughshares Fund, which advocates the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Negotiated in the 1990s, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty specified 44 nuclear-capable countries that must give formal approval before it can take effect. Eight countries besides the United States have yet to ratify the treaty: China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan. In 1999, during the Clinton administration, the Senate rejected ratification overwhelmingly, with all but three Republicans voting against it.

The administration needs 67 votes in the 100-member Senate to ratify the test ban treaty, which means it will need support from some of the 40 Republicans. Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., remains opposed. He believes a test ban would constrain the United States and undermine its technological superiority. Kyl and other opponents also say it will be difficult to verify whether other countries are conducting secret tests and to ensure that the U.S. arsenal can be maintained and improved without testing.

Stevens retirement rumors surface

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens has hired fewer law clerks than usual, generating speculation that the leader of the court's liberals will retire next year.

If Stevens does step down, he would give President Barack Obama his second high court opening in two years. Obama chose Justice Sonia Sotomayor for the court when Justice David

Souter announced his retirement.

Souter's failure to hire his usual four clerks was the first signal that he was contemplating leaving the court.

Stevens, 89, joined the court in 1975 and is the second-oldest justice in the court's history.

Aunt: Missing niece 'remembers all of us'

LOS ANGELES — Jaycee Dugard remembers her family and is enjoying getting to know her

younger sister, who was a baby when Dugard was kidnapped 18 years ago, her aunt said Thursday.

Tina Dugard spoke to reporters, describing her niece's reunion with her mother and sister.

"The smile on my sister's face was as wide as the sea. Her oldest daughter is finally home," Tina Dugard said.

Phillip and Nancy Garrido have pleaded not guilty to kidnap, rape and imprisonment charges.

From The Associated Press

Pair is accused of violating U.S. ban on arms sales to Iran

By DEVLIN BARRETT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Belgian man has been arrested for trying to purchase fighter jet engines and other parts for Iran in violation of the U.S. trade embargo on that country.

Justice Department officials said Wednesday that Jacques Monsieur, a citizen of Belgium and a resident of France, was taken into custody Friday in New York on charges he conspired with an Iranian, Dara Fotouhi, to buy engines and parts for the F-5 fighter jet.

Prosecutors charged that the pair are experienced arms dealers who have been working with the Iranian government to obtain military items.

Under the terms of the U.S. trade embargo with Iran, such items may not be exported there without express permission from the U.S. government.

Authorities say Monsieur contacted a person he thought could supply him with the jet engines and parts, but the contact actually was an undercover investigator.

Monsieur allegedly planned to hide the engines' true destination by claiming they were being sent to Colombia instead of Iran.

In July, according to court papers, Monsieur contacted an un-

dercover agent offering \$110,000 for jet parts and a \$300,000 down payment for two of the fighter jet engines.

A six-count indictment filed in federal court in Mobile, Ala., charges the two suspects with smuggling, money laundering, violating the Arms Export Control Act and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

If convicted of the most serious charge, the suspects face a maximum possible sentence of 20 years in prison. Fotouhi is living in France.

The sheriff's office in Baldwin County, Ala., confirmed Jacques Monsieur is being held there but declined further comment.

Monsieur appeared in federal court in Mobile for a brief hearing on Wednesday.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Katherine Nelson ordered him held until an arraignment hearing tentatively set for Sept. 10 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Bert W. Milling Jr.

The F-5 fighter was developed in the late 1950s as a small, versatile supersonic fighter, often delivered to U.S. allies during the Cold War.

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Scene

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Schumer proposal aims to avert plane crashes

NEW YORK — Sen. Charles Schumer is proposing new measures he says would help prevent another crash over the Hudson River like the one Aug. 8 that killed nine people.

Schumer wants the Federal Aviation Administration to monitor all helicopter and airplane flights below 1,000 feet, and to develop safety standards for commercial sightseeing tours.

At local control towers, Schumer wants more staff as well as alarm systems installed that set off progressively louder alarms as aircraft get closer to each other.

Troopergate figure files for Alaska governor run

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — State Sen. Hollis French, a major figure in last fall's Troopergate investigation, has filed paperwork to run for governor of Alaska.

The Democrat oversaw the investigation that looked into former Gov. Sarah Palin's firing of her public safety commissioner.

Palin fired Walt Monegan in July 2008. State lawmakers launched a \$100,000 investigation to determine if Palin dismissed Monegan because he would not fire her ex-brother-in-law, a state trooper involved in a messy custody battle with Palin's sister.

The investigation concluded Palin did abuse her power of office but the firing was legal because Monegan was an at-will employee.

Terminally ill Manson follower denied parole

CHOWCHILLA, Calif. — Susan Atkins, the terminally ill Charles Manson follower who admitted fatally stabbing actress Sharon Tate 40 years ago, lost what was likely to be her last bid for freedom Wednesday.

Atkins, 61, who suffers from brain cancer, slept through most of the four-hour hearing during which her husband-lawyer pleaded for her release and families of victims of the Sharon Tate-Labianca killings urged that she be kept behind bars until she dies.

Debra Tate, sister of the actress who was 8½ months pregnant when she was killed, told the parole commissioners: "I will pray for her soul when she draws her last breath, but until then I think she should remain in this controlled situation."

Obama aims for control of health care debate

WASHINGTON — Hoping to salvage his politically endangered health care overhaul, President Barack Obama will give a State of the Union-style address featuring fresh and more detailed arguments for revamping the system.

Scheduling of the speech for Wednesday, just a day after lawmakers return from their August recess, underscores the determination of the White House to confront critics of Obama's overhaul proposals and to buck up supporters thrown on the defensive.

Allies have been urging the president to be more specific about his plans and to take a greater role in the debate, and aides have signaled he will do that in the address to Congress.

From The Associated Press

Crews make progress against fires

Flare-up forces 25 to evacuate

BY GREG RISLING
AND RAQUEL MARIA DILLON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger toured a fire-ravaged community Thursday where a wildfire left dozens of homes in ruins, encountering piles of twisted metal and rubble as firefighters began to bring the blaze under greater control.

The blaze was 38 percent contained Thursday, up from 28 percent the previous day. The fire now measures 147,440 acres and is one of the largest wildfires in Southern California history.

Schwarzenegger talked to residents about their losses and later thanked firefighters for all of their work in putting out the flames. Despite the overall progress against the fire, firefighters dealt with a flare-up overnight in a remote canyon as strong downslope winds "just kind of blew the fire up," said U.S. Forest Service official John Huschke. Twenty-five people in 11 homes were evacuated in the canyon area.

The wildfire, now in its eighth day, has destroyed 64 homes, burned three people and left two firefighters dead. During the night, a firefighter injured his leg when he fell 20 feet from a cliff and was taken to a hospital by a medical helicopter, officials said. He was in stable condition.

Full containment was expected Sept. 15, meaning fire officials expect that they will have the blaze completely surrounded by then.

Firefighters have been assaulting the fire from the air to complement efforts on the ground.

"We're changing the pace and treating this as a marathon," U.S. Forest Service incident commander Mike Dietrich said. "If it were a 26-mile race, we'd only be at mile six."



LM OTERO/AP

The shell of a vehicle sits in an area destroyed by a wildfire in the Big Tujunga Canyon in Tujunga, Calif., on Thursday.

Governor demands response to water crisis

The Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called on the Obama administration Wednesday to intervene immediately in California's water crisis, saying environmental restrictions that have slashed water deliveries to farms and cities were having "catastrophic impacts."

The Republican governor sent a letter demanding a federal response to the state's prior requests to hold talks about reduced supplies from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the delicate ecosystem that serves as the main conduit moving water from north to south.

A three-year drought is to blame for the bulk of the state's current water shortages, and it has caused cities to ration their supplies and farmers to follow a quarter-million acres.

The environmental restrictions, which were designed to protect the estuary's struggling fish populations, also have limited the amount of water pumped to Southern California residents

and farmers.

The governor and the farming industry have been pressing the federal government to rewrite plans protecting species like the chinook salmon in a way that will lessen impacts on the water supply.

Idled farmworkers have driven the unemployment rate to nearly 40 percent in some dry pockets of the fertile San Joaquin Valley.

"What is the path forward so we can protect the species as well as the economy?" said California Department of Water Resources Director Lester Snow. "If they have a better way of doing this, they need to come forward with that better way."

An attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, which has sued to protect the fish, said the restrictions were based on sound science, and would help support commercial fishermen, who have not been able to fish for two seasons because salmon have been so scarce.

Biden defends government's stimulus plan

BY BEN FELLER
The Associated Press



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP
Vice President Joe Biden listens to a question as he speaks about the economy and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on Thursday at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

WASHINGTON — Defending a costly plan to revitalize the economy, Vice President Joe Biden on Thursday said the government's sweeping stimulus effort "is in fact working" despite steady Republican criticism and public skepticism.

"The recovery act has played a significant role in changing the trajectory of our economy, and changing the conversation in this country," Biden said. "Instead of talking about the beginning of a depression, we are talking about the end of a recession."

Nearly 200 days into the effort, Biden delivered an upbeat report card about the \$787 billion rescue effort that President Barack Obama pushed through Congress. He quoted estimates by private analysts that the plan has created or saved 500,000 to 750,000 jobs

so far. But many millions remain out of work.

The effectiveness of the two-year program is a matter of sharp political debate, and Biden sought to counter critics with a listing of tangible results.

"One of the criticisms is that it is simply a grab bag of different programs," Biden said in a speech at The Brookings Institution. "But the fact that the recovery act is multifaceted doesn't reflect a lack of design, it is the design."

The stimulus package is a mix of tax cuts, increased spending on Medicaid and huge investments in infrastructure, education, energy projects and more.

The White House is eager to promote signs of progress as the economy lumbers out of recession. Many economists warn that the unemployment rate will keep rising until at least next summer, and it is that measure — the loss

or creation of jobs — by which many Americans decide whether economic life is getting better.

The Republican Party criticized Biden's speech.

"The Democrats' rhetoric doesn't match with the reality of millions of Americans remaining unemployed," said Republican Party chief Michael Steele. "The stimulus was an economic experiment that failed Americans."

Obama's Council of Economic Advisers on Sept. 10 will report an updated projection of the number of jobs created or saved because of the stimulus plan. Biden said he expected it will back up his predictions of 150,000 jobs in the first 100 days and another 600,000 formed or saved over the second 100 days of the act.

Biden said so far, the law is "doing more, faster, more efficiently, and more effectively than most expected."

15 years later, town still feeling out Cobain tributes

By KIM MURPHY
Los Angeles Times

ABERDEEN, Wash. — “I sing and play the guitar,” Kurt Cobain once said, “and I’m a walking, talking bacterial infection.”

Is it any wonder the good citizens of Aberdeen have had mixed feelings, some loving, some reminiscent of stepping on shards of glass, when it comes to claiming the Nirvana front man as one of their own?

Fifteen years after the suicide that ended the legendary musician’s drug-fueled life at age 27, Aberdeen has the title of one of Cobain’s songs, “Come as You Are,” posted at the entrance to town.

The local museum offers a walking-tour map of important locales from Cobain’s childhood. And an unofficial park has been established next to the bridge under which Cobain hung out and wrote songs.

Recently, a granite plaque of Cobain sayings was installed at the park. Not only the one about being an infection — that was Kurt being Kurt — but also the one about how “drugs are bad for you, they will ... you up,” using a word the Aberdeen Daily World called “the F bomb.”

Lines were drawn.

“I’m no prude, but I don’t think that’s the kind of thing we want to see on city property,” said Bill Simpson, mayor of this logging and fishing town.

Some argued that Cobain’s frank warning about drugs was a good thing to convey to young people.

“The majority of the people who are going to make their way down there, it’s not like that’s the first time they’re ever going to see that word,” said Councilman Paul Fritts, co-founder of the Kurt Cobain Memorial Committee.

Amid the dust-up, the masonry company that etched the offending word in the granite etched out the last three letters.



Los Angeles Times

Recently, the City Council voted unanimously to accept the revamped monument. Officials also approved the table, benches and memorial signs that former lumber mill worker Tori Kovach installed at the base of the bridge, near his riverfront home.

It is perhaps a testament to the enduring spirit of grunge rock that someone almost immediately penciled in the missing letters.

“A concession has been made to those with genteel sensibilities. And, hopefully, that will placate them. Everyone else thinks it’s either sad or hilarious,” Kovach said.

The 66-year-old retiree, bald and bespectacled, lives in a carefully restored house filled with antiques and bric-a-brac that he shares with his wife and a long-haired dachshund.

By his own admission, Kovach doesn’t fit the profile of the typical Nirvana fan.

He wasn’t one, he said, until he listened to some of the band’s acoustic arrangements and realized that the young man reviled as a druggie and reprobate by many in Aberdeen’s older generation was, in fact, an accomplished artist.

“Kurt had his issues with being from here. He came from a broken home. There are certain facets of his life that resonate with mine,” Kovach said.

“When I heard his music, some of it just seemed to me to be a kind of guttural crying out. An expression of angst to some de-

“When I heard his music, some of it just seemed to me to be a kind of guttural crying out. An expression of angst to some degree, and rebellious anger. And in-your-face nonconformity that just appealed to me. He was a musical genius to a degree.”

Tori Kovach
Nirvana fan

gree, and rebellious anger. And in-your-face nonconformity that just appealed to me. He was a musical genius to a degree.”

Once Kovach began listening to the music, he knew the bridge was a special place: A Nirvana album released two years after Cobain’s 1994 death is titled “From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah,” and one of Cobain’s songs commemorates the hours he spent there.

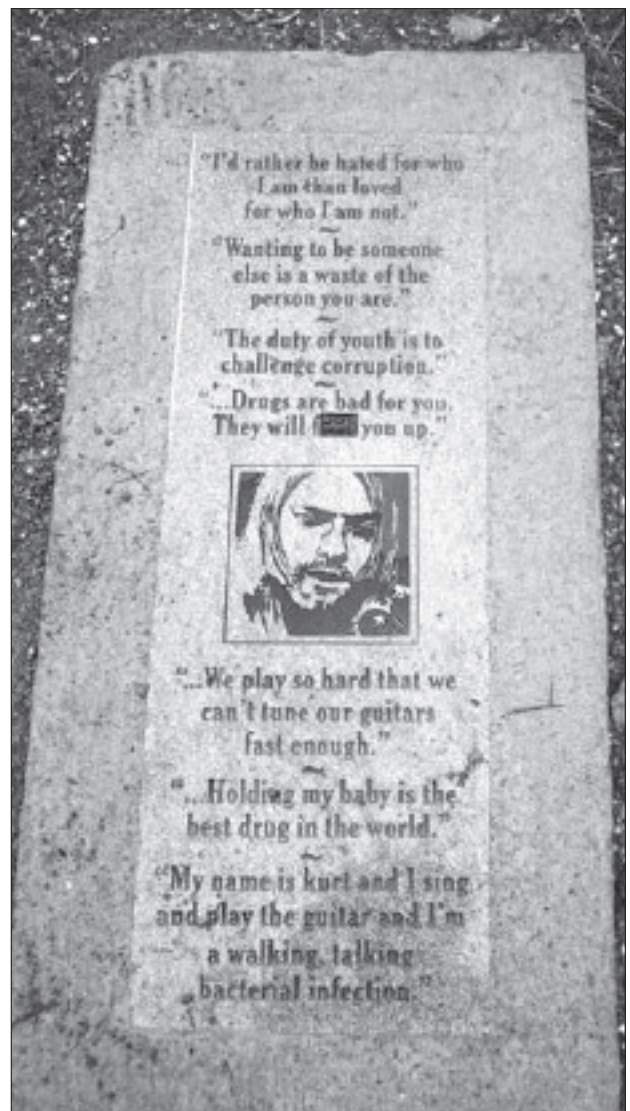
Over the years, the small park Kovach erected has become a destination for visitors from as far away as Australia and Japan.

Others around Aberdeen are following Kovach’s lead.

Don Sucher, who owns a “Star Wars”-themed souvenir shop downtown, has set up a Kurt Cobain Information Center with photos, news articles, maps and Cobain action figures.

The police chief said he’s thinking of posting Cobain’s mug shot from a 1985 graffiti arrest outside the police station with a small plaque for tourists.

A local winery is releasing a



KIM MURPHY/Los Angeles Times

A plaque in the late rocker Kurt Cobain’s hometown bears some of Cobain’s quotes, including one that has been edited. The town offers tours of notable places from Cobain’s life.

“Pinot Noirvana” and donating some of the profits to the memorial committee’s proposed youth center.

“I think our city, over the past 15 years regarding Kurt Cobain, has really missed the boat,” Fritts told the City Council.

“And I think a youth center that reaches out to youth more like him is a step in the right direction.”

Kovach is thinking of erecting a statue of Cobain holding a steel

guitar at the bridge park. But he worries about the “punk purists” who have declared that Cobain would roll over in his grave if he became a park statue.

Maybe it should be simply a guitar on a pedestal?

“That way, I wouldn’t have to spend my nights at the window with a pair of binoculars,” Kovach said, “wondering if somebody was going to take a baseball bat and smash the heck out of the thing.”

Friends, family gather to recall poet who vanished on Japan hiking trip

By MEAD GRUVER
The Associated Press

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Friends, family and colleagues paid their respects Wednesday to an award-winning poet and University of Wyoming professor who went missing in April while hiking in Japan.

They remembered Craig Arnold, 41, as a lover not only of words, but of travel, food and wine.

Arnold went missing April 26 while hiking on a volcano on a remote Japanese island. Rela-

tives kept up a search for him for weeks before finally giving up any hope of finding him alive.

More than 100 people gathered at the University of Wyoming Art Museum on Wednesday to listen to readings of Arnold’s work and hear stories from his life.

Peter Parolin, chairman of the UW English Department, recalled how Arnold was a “complicated man” who nonetheless “lived abundantly and well.”

“Brilliant? Absolutely. Independent? Ornerly? Sometimes,” Parolin said. “I can still see him when I’d be talking in de-

partment meetings, contorting his long body into paroxysms of disagreement.”

The same passion Arnold channeled into poetry and promotion of the art.

“He was public, he was a performer, he burst on our Laramie scene and instituted those amazing poetry slams,” Parolin said. “How many high school kids had the courage to stand up and declare themselves poets under Craig’s auspices? He gave those young people a gift.”

English professor Janice Harris recounted a dinner party

Arnold hosted at his apartment — how the warmth of his friendship and delicious eggplant caponata helped seal out the bitter Laramie cold that night.

“We will miss you, Craig, as a poet, as a cook, as a friend,” she concluded.

Poetry read at the memorial included Arnold’s work “Made Flesh”:

“Then, then we feel death
“As the deepest coming then we ease unhurried
“Into the bud of body then we learn

“Little by little to relinquish

“Gracefully and less afraid
“Each time to let each other slip

“Slowly out of our clasp made
“Fire, made flower, made flesh.”

Arnold published two award-winning collections of poetry, “Shells” in 1999 and “Made Flesh” last year.

Survivors include his 15-year-old son, Robin, parents John and Judy Arnold, brother Chris Arnold, and longtime girlfriend Rebecca Lindenberg.

FACES

Cate Blanchett suffers head wound on stage

Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett suffered a bleeding head wound when she was hit by a prop on stage Wednesday during a Sydney theater performance.

The performance of Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire" was canceled, but the 40-year-old Australian actress will return to the stage for Thursday's show, Sydney Theater Company spokesman Tim McKeough said.

"Another actor lifted the prop above his head, and she somehow sustained a minor blow to the head," McKeough said.

An audience member told Sydney's Macquarie Radio it soon became clear the accident was not part of the play.

"She had blood streaming down the back of her head and blood on the back of her neck," the unnamed theater-goer said.

Sydney Theater Company is run by Blanchett and her playwright husband, Andrew Upton.



Blanchett

through an intermediary.

The reality TV star told ABC News' Chris Cuomo on "Good Morning America" that he "took a lot of abuse" from Kate and he's looking to move on. The two stars of TLC's "Jon & Kate Plus 8" have become better known for their imploding marriage than their parenting skills in recent months.

He says police were recently called to the couple's Pennsylvania home because he wouldn't let Kate in the house and she tried to "cry it up with cops."

The 32-year-old father of eight is now dating the 22-year-old daughter of a surgeon who performed a tummy tuck on Kate. It was his first television interview since divorce papers were filed. A longer version will air next Tuesday on "Primetime: Family Secrets."

Eminem to pay tribute to label

Eminem was never a part of Def Jam Records, but the rapper is going to be part of the celebration when the legendary label is honored by VH1.

Eminem will join Mary J. Blige, DMX, Public Enemy, Kid Rock, the Roots and more when the label is feted at the network's sixth annual Hip Hop Honors.

Def Jam is celebrating 25 years. It is one of the most influential forces in rap. Among the hip-hop legends who were on the label include LL Cool J, Jay-Z and Slick Rick.

VH1's Hip Hop Honors will air on the network Oct. 13.

Urban, Gill host all-star concert

Keith Urban and Vince Gill will co-host an all-star concert to raise money for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, with guests including Brad Paisley, Taylor Swift and Faith Hill. Urban and Gill announced the concert Monday. It will be held Oct. 13 at Nashville's Sommet Center. Jason Aldean and Lady Antebellum are also scheduled to perform, with more acts expected to be announced.

Tickets are \$25.

— The Associated Press

Rimes divorcing

LeAnn Rimes and her husband are getting divorced.

The 26-year-old country singer made the announcement on her Web site Tuesday. In a message to her fans, Rimes wrote: "After much thoughtful mutual consideration, Deane and I have agreed to move forward with dissolving our marriage."

Rimes and backup dancer Deane Sheremet were married in February 2002. Tabloid reports have linked Rimes with actor Eddie Cibrian, her co-star in the TV movie "Northern Lights." Cibrian filed for divorce from his wife of eight years, Brandi, last week.

Jon Gosselin: I 'took a lot of abuse' from Kate

Jon Gosselin is fighting with wife Kate again — this time



The return of Whitney

AP

Singer Whitney Houston performed in Central Park on Tuesday for Wednesday's "Good Morning America" show. Her new album, "I Look to You," is out now.



AP

FLASHBACK

Actress Sarah Jessica Parker films an '80s flashback scene on location for "Sex and the City 2" in New York on Tuesday.



STARPIX/AP

GOOD WORKS

Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, left, his wife, Beyonce, and New York Gov. David Patterson announced the "Answer The Call" charity concert at Madison Square Garden on Monday. The concert will benefit New York Police and Fire Widows and Children's fund on Sept. 11.

Jay-Z designed a T-shirt with an image of Arthur Ashe to be sold during the U.S. Open to benefit charity. The shirt, part of the rap mogul's Rocawear clothing line, commemorates the USTA National Junior Tennis and Learning network's 40th anniversary. Proceeds will benefit the NJTL and the Arthur Ashe Endowment for the Defeat of AIDS. Ashe's widow, Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe, says she is "thrilled that someone of Jay-Z's stature would take part in this project." Ashe will be inducted into the U.S. Open Court of Champions on Sept. 10.

— The Associated Press

In order of preference, the Oscar goes to ...

Get out the calculator, because Oscar voting just became more complicated. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Monday took a long expected step to ensure that this year's best-picture winner won't be hated by 90 percent of its members: preferential voting.

In a preferential voting system, votes for the least popular first-choice movie are eliminated and those members' second

choices are taken into account. The process continues until a nominee receives more than 50 percent of the votes.

Academy spokesperson Leslie Unger confirmed that the organization would apply the same preferential voting system it uses in the nomination process to best-picture voting starting this winter. The news was first reported by The Wrap.

Such a move has been in the

works since the Academy decided in June to expand the number of best-picture nominees from five to 10. At the time, Academy Vice President Hawk Koch said there would be a change in the voting process, stating: "We want to make sure that 11 percent does not win the best picture."

Under the old system, members simply voted for their first choice. With 10 nominees, that would mean a movie with one vote

more than 10 percent theoretically could be named best picture. Other categories will continue to use the traditional single-vote process to pick winners.

The change marks the first time the Academy has used preferential voting for best picture since at least 1944, when it reduced the number of nominees from 10 to five.

— Ben Fritz
Los Angeles Times

FAITH

Back in the saddle again

Former Korn guitarist brings newfound love for God to music

BY SUE NOWICKI

McClatchy Newspapers

MODESTO, Calif. — Brian "Head" Welch was riding high as a founding member and lead guitarist of Korn — raking in millions of dollars each year, partying with the rich and famous, traveling the world on tour, married to a beautiful wife with a precious daughter.

But there was the pit beneath the literal high, a daily addiction to crystal meth, including seeing his wife also get hooked and running off with a two-strike felon, hearing his bandmates bickering over music and personalities, and becoming a single dad with a young daughter who began singing the band's lyrics, "All day I dream about sex."

"I put those words there, and my angel was singing it," Welch said. He tried rehab, but said he couldn't kick the habit. Then a friend took him to a church where he heard about the redeeming power of a life with Jesus.

He said that power helped him kick his drug habit and become a better dad.

In 2005, Welch shocked the music world and his Korn bandmates when he walked away from the multiple platinum and two-time Grammy-winning group.

For the next few years, he lived on money socked away from his years with Korn and the royalties that followed.

In 2007,

Welch came out with a book, followed in 2008 with a new album, both titled "Save Me From Myself."

This year, he hit the road with a new band.

Expect the kind of heavy-metal rock music that put Korn on top of the charts, but with lyrics that showcase Welch's change in values.

The music and message won't be soft, he said, but it will be real.

The 39-year-old Bakersfield, Calif., native spoke recently from Phoenix, where he lives with his 11-year-old daughter, Jennea. Here's what he had to say about his life, his faith and his music:

When did you start playing the guitar?

I was 10 years old. I remember listening to my parents' eight-track tapes — Queen and Billy Joel. I wanted to play drums because I liked the beat. But my dad talked me into playing the guitar because it was quieter. I started with beginner lessons, then I figured stuff out on my own. I guess I was born with a good ear. I took more advanced lessons when I got to the electric guitar later on.

Korn started with your Bakersfield friends, didn't it?

We started jamming in little odd bands around town when we were about 16. We would start bands and break up and do that again until we graduated from high school. A few of the guys moved to L.A. and started a new band. I moved there and they asked me to join them. The band was called Creep. Then we got our lead vocalist, changed the name to Korn and it took off about a year later. I was 22 when Korn started.

When did you start doing drugs?

I tried smoking marijuana when I was 8 years old. One of my friend's older brother smoked weed. My friend stole a roach from him. Then I tried it again in high school, but I didn't like it. So I started drinking beer. Around 21, I tried meth one night and got pretty bad

hooked with it. Three of the guys in the band were doing it pretty bad. We quit when we got signed. It crept back into my life for the next 10, 11 years. I got into cocaine a little bit. Vicodin. I stayed away from heroin and things people die from. But drinking beer was my main thing.

How did you rediscover God?

After my wife got hooked on drugs and took off with those scary guys, I said I wouldn't do drugs any more. But after a couple of years, I started drinking with friends, and one of them said he knew a dealer, and it happened so quick. Once I started using crystal meth, I became an everyday user. I took it when touring and used it at home. I tried to go to rehab and get clean. As a last resort, I went to church with friends. The pastor said (God could help me). I thought, I'll just try it. I was at home in Bakersfield, and I felt like my heart was just changing. A couple of weeks later, I had the strength to throw away my drugs. I felt so much love from God that I wanted it all the time.

Your music is still very heavy metal. What has changed from your years with Korn?

The lyrics are definitely different. There's a positive message in the songs. I get to share my heart. I think I'm evolving to a certain sound. I think my next album will be sort of different, but still on that heavy edge. I kind of have a desire to have a different band name. We'll see how it happens.

What's the most important thing in your life?

Relationship with God all the way, and my daughter. That's it. Everything falls into place after that. It's a personal relationship; I'm not some sort of wing nut. People thought I was a nut for a long time. My (Korn) fans hated me, but I didn't care. I was in la-la land over here with God.

What have you learned about God in the past four years?

So much. His mercy and grace — I make mistakes all the time. I've got anger problems still, after all these years. Sometimes the potty mouth comes out. It doesn't matter what we do; it's all about what God did with Jesus. You just try your best and he takes care of the rest.

Do you have a message for your old Korn fans?

I'm starting out new right now. My crowds are 200-600 people, so it's nowhere near what we used to have with Korn. I wouldn't mind them coming to check me out. I still love them, and I'm just glad I'm alive. I would have been dead by now if I hadn't stopped.

Some lyrics from 'Washed by Blood'

*I've chosen this time
to change your mind so
you will find*

*Your way back home
Where you belong
Your heart of stone
Will start to feel love
From now on*

True

*Live for me and you
will see your life will be
so worry-free*

*Say goodbye to your
old life give me a try*

Be alive

*There shall be no more
death nor sorrow nor
crying*

*There shall be no more
pain*

*For the former things
have passed away*

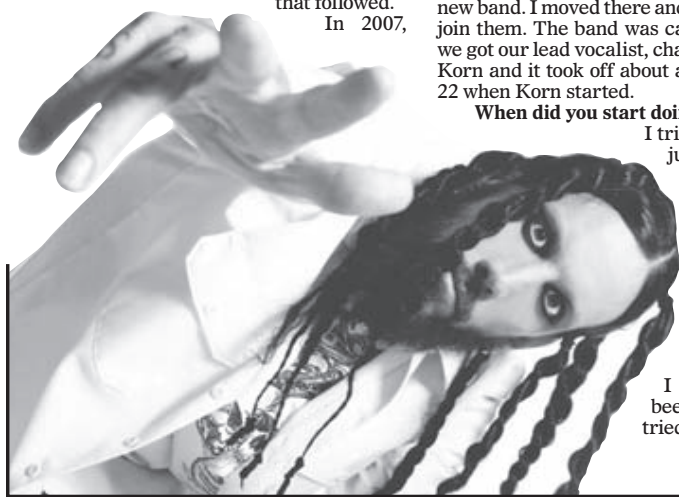
*You're washed by
blood*

From deep inside

*You're not a prisoner
of your old life*

*Come fly away with
me*

You know I love you



Ex-Korn guitarist Brian "Head" Welch brings his newfound love for God to concerts.

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YOUR MONEY

Transition chief vows to protect wounded vets

Vietnam War veterans will nod with understanding over many of Noel Koch's comments contrasting support for wounded troops and veterans today, from citizenry and government, compared to how it was 40 years ago.

During the Vietnam War, he said, "we got very good at saving people's lives on the battlefield. But we never got good at giving them a life worth living once they got back here," Koch said. "We just warehoused them in VA hospitals and that's part of the scandal of the times."

"We're not going to let that happen again," he continued. "And that's a directive that comes from the president — and I should say the first lady as well — and runs in a straight line, with the secre-



Koch

tary of defense straddling it, right into this office."

Koch is director of the Department of Defense's Office of Transition Policy and Care Coordination (TPCC), an entity less than a year old. He's responsible for how well DOD and the services implement very ambitious initiatives and reforms to ensure this generation of warriors gets the support it needs to stay in service or move as smoothly as possible into civilian life.

At the risk of personalizing the issue too much, Koch said, he noted he's a member of Vietnam Veterans of America.

"And our basic motto is never again will one generation of veterans abandon another. You may take from that a certain sense of grievance," he said, "but that's not the important part. The important part is this: that (Vietnam) generation is determined to take care of this generation."

In the wake of the scandal that rocked Walter Reed Army Medical Center more than two years ago, several commissions and internal studies produced mounds of recommendations to improve support of wounded warriors. Seemingly before the ink dried on commission draft reports, Congress had passed comprehensive wounded warrior legislation.

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

Meanwhile, the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs jointly established the Wounded, Ill and Injured Senior Oversight Committee (SOC), co-chaired by the deputy secretaries of VA and DOD. The SOC was to ensure that wounded warrior legislation was implemented properly and that key task force recommendations were adopted and resourced.

The spotlight has dimmed, SOC survives but, within DOD, it's Koch's TPCC office, with a staff of 30 and rising, taking over day-to-day oversight of dramatic warrior transition reforms. Here's a rundown from our interview with Koch (pronounced Cook) in his Alexandria, Va., office:

■ **Disability Evaluation System (DES) pilot.** Jointly administered by DOD and VA, the pilot now is running at 21 military hospitals. It gives ill or injured servicemembers a faster, more seamless disability review and rating process with results recognized by both departments. The

pilot will expand soon to seven more military treatment facilities, enough so that half of all service disability evaluations will be done in the streamlined system.

Since November 2007, nearly 4,000 servicemembers have enrolled in the pilot. Through August this year, 534 members had completed the process. Nearly half have been awarded disability retirement, the result of stricter adherence to more liberal VA rating rules and higher ratings for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Thirty-eight percent are returning to duty. Only 13 percent, so far, have been separated, most with a lump sum severance.

Under the legacy system, DOD and VA each conducted their own physicals and do their own ratings. It takes an average 540 days to complete. The pilot effectively cuts that time in half. On average, the pilot is taking 273 days to complete, from enrollment until the member has a VA benefit decision in hand. Koch said the pilot is popular with participants.

■ **Recovery Care Coordinators.** The Army still calls them Wounded Warrior Advocates. To Marines, they're members of the Wounded Warrior Regiment. To Koch and his staff, they are Recovery Care Coordinators or RCCs, managing the non-medi-

cal care of war wounded until they recover or are separated or retired. Often the contact doesn't stop then. Marines, for example, try to maintain contact with all of their seriously wounded vets to ensure they're getting the support they deserve.

Koch's office is setting standards for RCCs and conducting training.

"We're in a very unique situation with these wars," Koch said. "We're trying to take care of people in a way we never did before."

■ **Physical Disability Board of Review.** Koch's shop oversees the PDBR. Under a law passed two years ago, as many as 77,000 veterans separated since 9/11 with disability ratings up to 20 percent are eligible to have ratings reconsidered and, perhaps, upgraded if their Physical Evaluation Board didn't use the more liberal VA rating schedule in effect at separation. A rating of 30 percent or higher means disability retirement, rather than a lump-sum severance, and Tricare eligibility for veteran and family.

The DES pilot, the PDBR and the RCC, Koch said, all show "we're trying to do things differently."

To comment, e-mail milupdate@aol.com, write to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120-1111 or visit: www.militaryupdate.com

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Japanese yen (Sept. 4)	91.00
South Korean won (Sept. 4)	1,215.00
Euro costs (Sept. 4)	\$1.4699
Dollar buys (Sept. 4)	0.6803
British pound (Sept. 4)	\$1.69

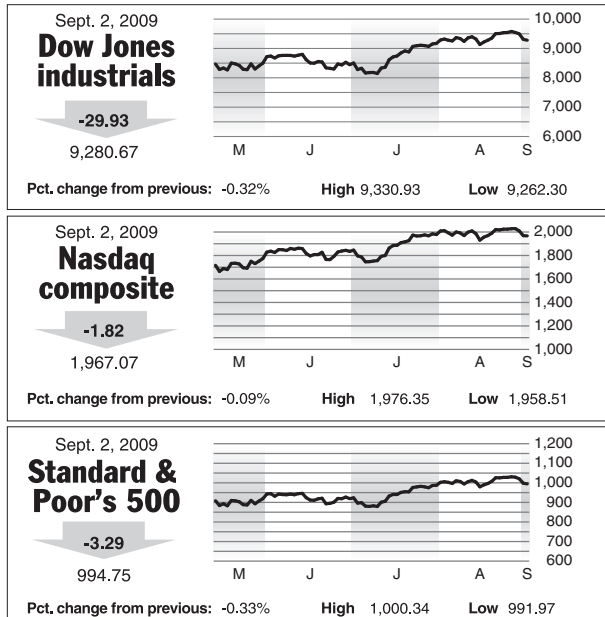
Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768
British pound	\$1.6367
Canada (Dollar)	1.1020
China (Yuan)	6.8346
Denmark (Krone)	5.2165
Egypt (Pound)	5.5330
Euro	\$1.4294/0.6996
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7509
Hungary (Forint)	191.83
Israel (Shekel)	3.7910
Japan (Yen)	92.60
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2877
Norway (Krone)	6.0461
Philippines (Peso)	48.73
Poland (Zloty)	2.88
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4402
South Korea (Won)	1,244.80
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0599
Thailand (Baht)	34.05
Turkey (New Lira)	1.5084
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.50
Federal funds market rate	0.00-0.25
3-month bill	0.13
30-year bond	4.12
Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press	

A DAY ON WALL STREET



SOURCE: SunGard

AP

GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan/Okinawa	--	\$2.584	--	\$2.519
Change in price	--	-1.2 cents	--	+0.6 cents
South Korea	\$2.706	--	\$2.950	\$2.767
Change in price	-1.5 cents	--	-1.2 cents	+0.6 cents
Guam	\$2.799*	\$2.919	\$3.039	--
Change in price	-1.0 cents	-2.0 cents	-1.0 cents	--

For the week of September 5 - 11 * Midgrade



MARK LENNIHAN/AP

Shoppers carrying purchases from T.J. Maxx and Macy's leave a mall in New York. Many retailers are reporting sales declines for August as shoppers continue to focus on necessities.

U.S. retailers post weak sales results in August

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Retailers on Thursday posted sales declines for August as shoppers held back on back-to-school purchases and continued to focus on necessities, but overall results came in ahead of analyst predictions.

A monthly compilation of 31 retailers' results by The International Council of Shopping Centers and Goldman Sachs showed sales in established stores fell 2.1 percent in August compared with the same month in 2008. That was better than the 3.5 percent to 4 percent drop expected.

About half of the 30 retailers reporting August results missed expectations, but half topped them, according to a poll by Thomson Reuters. The winners were mainly discounters, but declines were less than expected in the specialty apparel and department store sectors as well.

"It really was all about value and price proposition here," said Ken Perkins, president of retail consulting firm Retail Metrics. "If you're off-price or discount-oriented and conscious of price points you fared very well in August."

Prosecutor enters Senate bid

BOSTON — Attorney General Martha Coakley announced Thursday she will run as a Democratic candidate in the special election to succeed the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

The 20-year prosecutor said she can continue to be "an effective voice for the people of Massachusetts."

Kennedy died last week of brain cancer at age 77.

"As some have noted, we perhaps cannot fill his shoes, but must strive to follow in his footsteps," Coakley said.

Coakley, 56, becomes the most prominent candidate to officially declare. Several others are waiting for Kennedy's nephew, former Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, to decide if he will run.

Coakley said she decided to run "because government should work well and work for everyone."

From The Associated Press

Kennedy memoir reveals remorse

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy wrote in a memoir being published this month that he made terrible decisions after the 1969 car crash that killed Mary Jo Kopechne, but said he was never romantically involved with her and was haunted by that night for his entire life.

He also wrote in "True Compass" that he accepted the conclusion that a lone gunman assassinated his brother President John F. Kennedy. The memoir is to be published Sept. 14 by Twelve, a division of the Hachette book group. The 532-page book was obtained early first by The New York Times and later by the New York Daily News.

In it, Kennedy says his actions on Chap-

paquiddick on July 18, 1969, were "inexcusable." He says he was afraid and "made terrible decisions" and had to live with the guilt for more than four decades.

Kennedy drove off a bridge into a pond. He swam to safety, leaving Kopechne in the car.

Kopechne, a worker with slain Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's campaign, was found dead in the submerged car's back seat 10 hours later. Kennedy, then 37, pleaded guilty to leaving the scene

of an accident and got a suspended sentence and probation. He writes that he had no romantic relationship with Kopechne, and he hardly knew her.

Kennedy writes candidly about his battle with brain cancer and his "self-destructive drinking," especially after the 1968 death of his brother Robert.

He explains why he decided to run for the presidency in 1980, saying he was motivated by his differences with then-President Jimmy Carter. He criticized Carter's go-slow approach to providing universal health care.

The book was written with the help of a collaborator and was based on contemporaneous notes taken by Kennedy throughout his life. Kennedy died last week at age 77.

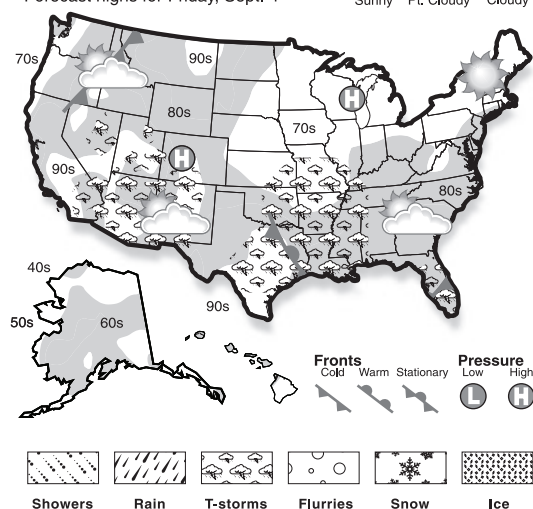


Kennedy in 1969

WEATHER OUTLOOK

National forecast

Forecast highs for Friday, Sept. 4



Front Stalls In South, System Approaches Northwest

Gulf moisture coupled with a nearly stationary front from the Florida Peninsula through the Southern Plains will yield to persistent showers and storms. A cold front will bring cool weather with showers as it treks toward the Pacific Northwest Coast.

Weather Underground • AP

Thursday's global temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Amsterdam	67	57	Rain	La Paz	57	32	Snow
Athens	84	68	Clr	Lima	67	60	Cldy
Auckland	60	50	Clr	Lisbon	75	62	Clr
Baghdad	107	77	Clr	London	68	56	Rain
Basra	114	84	pc	Madrid	89	63	Clr
Bahrain	99	87	Clr	Managua	93	73	Clr
Bangkok	90	78	Rain	Manila	87	78	Rain
Barbados	86	78	Rain	Mecca	107	86	pc
Barcelona	82	73	pc	Melbourne	64	44	Rain
Beijing	79	64	Cldy	Mexico City	73	57	pc
Beirut	88	76	pc	Montevideo	57	55	Rain
Belgrade	85	59	Clr	Montreal	75	54	Clr
Berlin	75	62	Rain	Moscow	75	48	Clr
Bermuda	86	79	pc	Nairobi	74	53	Rain
Bogota	68	50	Rain	Nassau	90	79	Rain
Brasilia	86	60	pc	New Delhi	95	80	pc
Brisbane	73	52	Clr	Nice	81	71	pc
Brussels	69	53	Rain	Osaka	89	71	pc
Bucharest	77	55	pc	Oslo	58	51	Rain
Budapest	84	53	Clr	Panama	95	75	pc
Buenos Aires	61	55	Rain	Paris	69	57	Rain
Cairo	92	74	pc	Perth	60	50	Rain
Calgary	85	52	Clr	Prague	80	64	Clr
Caracas	93	82	pc	Rio de Janeiro	80	69	Clr
Colombo	84	80	pc	Rome	89	71	Clr
Copenhagen	68	59	Rain	San Jose	86	67	Rain
Dhahran	111	78	Clr	San Juan	89	81	Clr
Dhaka	94	82	Rain	San Salvador	87	69	Rain
Dili	93	72	Clr	Santiago	51	46	Rain
Dubai	100	89	Clr	Sao Paulo	86	65	pc
Dublin	57	49	Rain	Sapporo	78	58	Clr
Frankfurt	76	59	Rain	Seoul	84	64	Clr
Geneva	69	63	Rain	Singapore	88	74	pc
Guatemala	78	60	pc	Sofia	86	53	Rain
Hanoi	93	80	pc	Stockholm	68	55	Rain
Harare	78	49	Clr	Sydney	65	48	Clr
Havana	89	71	pc	Taipei	91	78	Rain
Helsinki	70	60	Rain	Tegucigalpa	86	62	pc
Hong Kong	95	82	Rain	Tehran	88	71	Clr
Islamabad	88	73	Rain	Tel Aviv	88	70	Clr
Istanbul	78	60	Clr	Tokyo	73	69	Rain
Jakarta	89	76	Rain	Turin	82	64	pc
Jerusalem	88	70	Clr	Toronto	72	54	Clr
Johannesburg	79	56	Cldy	Tunis	94	78	Clr
Kabul	82	59	Clr	Valletta	86	71	pc
Kiev	65	58	Rain	Vancouver	71	55	pc
Kuala Lumpur	89	73	pc	Vienna	79	57	pc
Kuwait	110	82	Clr	Warsaw	77	53	Clr
				Zurich	74	60	Rain

SATURDAY'S FORECAST



Air Force Weather/www.afweather.af.mil

Friday's U.S. temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Casper	88	49	PCldy	Erie	76	56	Clr	Jacksonville	88	70	Cldy	Montgomery	89	64	Clr	Richmond	84	60	Cldy	Spokane	81	50	Cldy
Abilene, Tex.	90	68	Cldy	Charleston, S.C.	86	65	Cldy	Eugene	80	46	Cldy	Juneau	59	m	Rain	Nashville	84	62	Cldy	Roanoke	84	54	Clr	Springfield, Ill.	81	56	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	78	52	Clr	Charlotte, N.W.a.82	51	Clr	Evansville	83	60	Cldy	Kansas City	74	58	Cldy	New Orleans	88	72	PCldy	Rochester	77	55	Clr	Springfield, Mo.	75	59	Rain	
Albany, N.Y.	78	55	Clr	Charlotte, N.C.	85	58	PCldy	Fairbanks	70	m	Clr	Key West	91	80	PCldy	New York City	82	61	Cldy	Rockford	77	50	Clr	Syracuse	79	54	Clr
Albuquerque	83	62	Cldy	Chattanooga	88	60	PCldy	Fargo	80	56	Clr	Knoxville	86	58	PCldy	Newark	83	61	Cldy	Sacramento	90	58	Clr	Tallahassee	90	69	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	81	55	PCldy	Cheyenne	79	52	PCldy	Flagstaff	77	52	Cldy	Lake Charles	89	68	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	81	68	Cldy	St Louis	80	64	Cldy	Tampa	89	74	PCldy
Amarillo	84	59	PCldy	Chicago	76	53	Clr	Flint	79	48	Clr	Lansing	77	49	Clr	North Platte	77	51	PCldy	St Petersburg	84	76	PCldy	Toledo	80	51	Clr
Anchorage	65	m	PCldy	Cincinnati	82	59	Clr	Fort Smith	81	64	Rain	Las Vegas	103	83	Cldy	Oklahoma City	86	66	PCldy	St Thomas	85	79	Rain	Topeka	74	59	Cldy
Asheville	80	50	PCldy	Cleveland	78	51	Clr	Fort Wayne	81	51	Clr	Lexington	82	56	PCldy	Omaha	77	56	PCldy	Salem, Ore.	77	50	Cldy	Tucson	95	75	Rain
Atlanta	86	63	Clr	Colorado Springs	81	53	PCldy	Fresno	97	67	Clr	Lincoln	76	56	Cldy	Orlando	91	72	Cldy	Salt Lake City	93	65	PCldy	Tulsa	78	65	Rain
Atlantic City	82	52	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	87	61	PCldy	Goodland	80	54	PCldy	Little Rock	82	63	Cldy	Godsland	83	63	Cldy	San Angelo	89	68	Cldy	Tyler	81	65	PCldy
Austin	95	71	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	89	64	Clr	Grand Junction	91	61	Cldy	Los Angeles	90	68	Clr	Pendleton	84	51	Clr	San Antonio	95	74	Cldy	Waco	96	73	Cldy
Baltimore	81	59	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	82	58	Clr	Grand Rapids	79	52	Clr	Louisville	83	60	PCldy	Peoria	79	55	PCldy	San Diego	84	70	PCldy	Washington, D.C.	83	61	Cldy
Baton Rouge	88	68	PCldy	Concord, N.H.	82	54	Clr	Great Falls	86	55	Clr	Lubbock	87	64	Cldy	Philadelphia	83	61	Cldy	San Francisco	69	56	PCldy	W.Palm Beach	90	75	Rain
Billings	91	60	PCldy	Corpus Christi	92	72	PCldy	Green Bay	78	49	Clr	Macon	91	61	Clr	Phoenix	100	84	Cldy	San Jose	78	58	PCldy	Wichita	76	61	Clr
Birmingham	87	62	Clr	Dallas-Ft. Worth	92	72	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	82	58	Clr	Madison	77	46	Clr	Pittsburgh	79	51	Clr	Pittsburg	86	77	Rain	Wichita Falls	93	69	PCldy
Bismarck	84	56	Clr	Dayton	80	54	Clr	Harrisburg	82	57	PCldy	Medford	86	52	PCldy	Pocatello	89	53	PCldy	Santa Fe	80	53	Cldy	Wilkes-Barre	79	53	Clr
Boise	93	64	Clr	Daytona Beach	88	72	Cldy	Hartford Spgfld	82	57	Cldy	Memphis	85	67	Cldy	Portland, Maine	77	56	Clr	St Ste Marie	72	55	Clr	Wilmington, Del.	82	60	Cldy
Boston	77	62	PCldy	Denver	85	53	PCldy	Helena	89	56	PCldy	Miami Beach	90	77	Rain	Portland, Ore.	78	54	Cldy	St Savannah	87	66	PCldy	Yakima	84	51	Cldy
Bridgeport	81	59	Cldy	Des Moines	77	54	Clr	Honolulu	90	75	Clr	Midland-Odessa	87	68	Cldy	Providence	81	59	Cldy	Seattle	68	54	Clr	Youngstown	78	48	Clr
Brownsville	93	74	PCldy	Detroit	80	57	PCldy	Houston	91	72	Cldy	Milwaukee	73	54	Clr	Pueblo	85	54	PCldy	Shreveport	85	67	Rain				
Buffalo	77	55	Clr	Duluth	75	52	Clr	Huntsville	87	63	PCldy	Mpls-St Paul	78	52	Clr	Raleigh-Durham	83	62	PCldy	Sioux City	74	51	PCldy				
Burlington, Vt.	78	54	Clr	El Paso	91	68	PCldy	Indianapolis	81	57	PCldy	Missoula	86	53	Clr	Rapid City	88	58	Clr	Sioux Falls	74	52	Clr				
Caribou, Maine	76	54	PCldy	Elkins	79	44	Clr	Jackson, Miss.	87	65	Cldy	Mobile	88	66	PCldy	Reno	91	59	Clr	South Bend	79	52	Clr				

National temperature

Woman found guilty of '78 Oahu killing

HI HONOLULU — A second jury has found a woman guilty of a murder that occurred 31 years ago.

Maryann Acker, who now goes by the name Maryann Bray, was first found guilty in 1982 of robbing and murdering a Honolulu man based on the testimony of her partner in crime — her husband.

She was retried after Circuit Judge Michael Town set aside the first verdict.

During the three-week-long retrial, Acker said she heard the gunshots that night, but denied pulling the trigger.

Deputy Prosecutor Landon Murata says his office hasn't decided on what sentence to seek.

Bank's thumbprint rule irks man with no arms

FL TAMPA — A Florida man born without arms says a Tampa bank would not let him cash a check because he couldn't provide a thumbprint.

Steve Valdez didn't have an account at a Bank of America location in downtown Tampa, where he tried to cash a check from his wife. However, Valdez has prosthetic arms and is unable to provide a thumbprint. He says he presented two forms of identification but was still denied.

He tells the St. Petersburg Times a bank manager told him he could either come back to the bank with his wife or open an account himself.

Bank of America spokeswoman Nicole Nastacie says the bank has apologized to Valdez. Nastacie says the bank should have "offered alternative requirements if an individual is not able to give a thumbprint."

Life jackets made mandatory in cold waters

NY ALBANY — Seizing on the chilling fact that drowning happens faster in cold water, New York has become the first state to require life jackets on everyone in all small boats during the coldest half of the year.

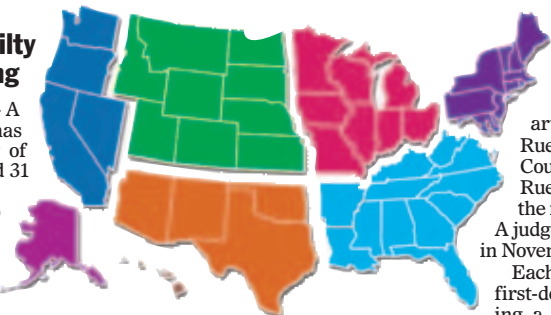
More boating accidents happen in the summer, when more people are out on the water, but the fatality rate rises in the colder months, from 8 percent nationally in July to 25 percent in November last year. Officials say the scarcity of other boaters to help with rescues also increases the risk of death.

New York law already required personal flotation devices for all children under 12 on boats less than 65 feet, with life jackets on-board for others.

NTSB: Missouri bus driver hit gas, not brake

DC WASHINGTON — A 2005 school bus accident that killed two people and injured 23 elementary students in Missouri occurred because the driver likely stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake, according to a National Transportation Safety Board investigation.

The NTSB determined that "pedal misapplication" in the crash in Liberty, Mo., and four oth-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ers since then involving large vehicles likely led to the accidents.

After studying those accidents, the safety board approved recommendations urging the government to require that new buses and large vehicles have equipment installed forcing the driver to press the brake to shift the automatic transmission out of park.

Search goes on for home-invasion suspect

TX BURNET — Authorities continue their search for a 24-year-old Hill Country jail inmate who turned up missing.

Burnet County Sheriff W.T. Smith has said his investigators believe Nuana Fuentes-Sanchez escaped from the county jail during recreation time.

Fuentes-Sanchez had been held on an aggravated robbery charge on \$200,000 bond. He and four other Salvadoran men were held on charges relating to a predawn break-in April 14 at a Burnet County house.

Jury picks life in prison for 2 in Vegas bombing

NV LAS VEGAS — A jury picked life without parole instead of the death penalty for two illegal immigrants convicted of a fatal bombing that killed a hot dog stand vendor in a Las Vegas casino parking lot.



At long last

1st Lt. Jason Ellis, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and his wife, Devon Ellis, kiss after finding each other during a welcome-home ceremony at Fort Dix, N.J., for soldiers returning home from Iraq after an eight-month tour.

The jury recommended life sentences for bomb-maker Porfirio Duarte-Herrera and Omar Rueda-Denvers in Clark County District Court. Rueda-Denvers also uses the name Alexander Perez. A judge will sentence the men in November.

Each was found guilty of first-degree murder for planting a pipe bomb that killed Willebaldo Dorantes Antonio, 24, outside the Luxor hotel-casino in 2007.

Neighbors help save 110 cats after owner dies

TX JOHNSON CITY — When an elderly Johnson City woman known as the "cat lady" died, leaving behind more than 100 felines, the question arose about what would happen to her precious pets.

Blanco County has no animal control agency or animal shelter, so the 72-year-old woman's neighbors knew they had to step in and help.

The Austin American-Statesman reported she had an estimated 110 cats and many were healthy and available to be given new homes.

Carol Schlachter, with the all-volunteer Blanco County Cat Coalition, said some residents considered destroying the cats, even though the animals were doing well.

Kathleen Wilson has tried to get as many cats adopted as possible, with 16 of the original group still left at her home.

"Somebody had to be there," Wilson said. "There was nobody else."

Second brother pleads guilty in meatpacker fire

WI MILWAUKEE — The second of two Wisconsin brothers accused of starting a fire that caused \$50 million to a meatpacking plant has pleaded guilty.

Prosecutors say Kurtis Popp, 25, pleaded guilty to a charge of second-degree recklessly endangering public safety.

Prosecutors say Popp fired a military flare that his brother had given him. The flare landed on a roof at the Patrick Cudahy Inc. meatpacking plant and ignited the fire.

Prosecutors agreed to recommend up to a year in the House of Correction, three years probation, community service and a stayed prison sentence.

His 23-year-old brother, Joshua Popp, pleaded guilty in a similar agreement.

Calif. approves plan to cut prison budget

CA SACRAMENTO — The California Assembly narrowly passed a plan to cut the state corrections budget by \$1 billion, despite Republican lawmakers who assailed the measure as a threat to public safety.

Legislative leaders said they will need to make more cuts to the prisons budget before their scheduled adjournment.

Assembly Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, removed provisions from the Senate bill that proved to be the most controversial — the early release of ill inmates or some of those age 60 or older, as well as a proposal to reduce certain property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.



Rain of grain

Don Larson unloads a new crop of hard red spring wheat at the Farmers Elevator Co. in Honeyford, N.D.



Plenty to go around

Audrey Fox picks ginger gold apples at the Surowiec Farm apple orchard in Sanbornton, N.H. According to owner Steve Surowiec, the weather this summer has created a bumper-crop of apples this season.



Gettin' soaked

Florida State University students wait at a bus stop in a driving rain storm in Tallahassee, Fla.



And now to the traffic report A firefighter applies fire retardant foam around a single-engine aircraft on Interstate 495, in Mansfield, Mass. The traffic-reporting plane with engine trouble made an emergency landing on the highway southwest of Boston late Tuesday morning, and the two men aboard were uninjured.



School is cool! Students move in to their dormitory rooms at Hope College in Holland, Mich., in preparation for the opening of classes.



True jumpmaster Michael J. Matthews, 55, of Bay City, Mich., prepares to land at the Harry Browne Airport, in Buena Vista Township, Mich. Since his first jump, as a 21-year-old student at Michigan State University on April 3, 1975, Matthews has jumped all over the world and logged every one of them.



Showing the guv how it's done Michelle Marfo, 9, of Alexandria, Va., left, demonstrates her hand washing technique to Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine as Mased Saroor, 9, waits his turn, after the governor spoke about the H1N1 virus at Samuel Tucker Elementary School in Alexandria, Va.

Got \$10? Board earlier in Southwest Airlines

TX DALLAS — Southwest Airlines is starting to charge some customers to be able to board aircraft sooner.

The Dallas-based discount carrier said Wednesday that for an extra \$10 each way Southwest passengers can automatically reserve a boarding position prior to general check-in. That would allow those customers to begin boarding the plane after certain elite fliers, who don't have to pay add-on fees for early boarding privileges.

Unlike other carriers, Southwest does not offer assigned seating.

The new offering can be purchased up to 25 hours prior to the scheduled departure time of the customer's flight.

School drops suit over use of name in porn

SD SIOUX FALLS — A South Dakota-based college has agreed to drop its lawsuit alleging a California pornography company illegally used its name.

National American University accused the porn provider of trademark violations and cyber piracy for its use of Naughty American University and the acronym NAU.

The school's parent company, Dlorah Inc., filed the federal complaint in Rapid City, where the company is based, against La Touraine Inc., a Nevada corporation based in San Diego.

National American University offers online degrees and has 16 campuses in South Dakota, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico and Texas.

Is there a cardiologist on standby for this?

TX DALLAS — It's practically fattening just thinking about it.

Deep fried butter is among eight creative food items by vendors at this year's State Fair of Texas in Dallas.

Fair officials say a Labor Day cookoff will determine the winner of the Big Tex Choice Awards.

Other offerings for the annual expo include green goblins, twisted yam on a stick, deep fried peaches and cream, fried pecan pie, country fried pork chops, sweet jalapeno corn dog shrimp and fried peanut butter cup macaroon.

Rank riders could face fines for fragrance

HI HONOLULU — A vote on a Honolulu City Council proposal that would bar people with offensive odors from public transit vehicles is being delayed.

The proposed ordinance would make it illegal to have "odors that unreasonably disturb others or interfere with their use of the transit system."

Councilman Nestor Garcia said the proposal has some technical problems that need to be addressed.

One of those is language that would allow city police to charge a violator with criminal trespass. Garcia says only the state Legislature can pass criminal statutes.

He says testimony will be heard at the council's next Transportation Committee hearing at city hall.

But he says a vote will be re-

scheduled for a future date.

Man convicted in death of USC film student

CA LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles man was found guilty of second-degree murder in the stabbing death of a University of Southern California film student last year during a street fight.

Travion T. Ford, 25, who sometimes worked as an usher at USC football games, faces 16 years to life in state prison in the Sept. 18 slaying of Bryan R. Frost, 23, outside Ford's mother's apartment near the university. Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 29.

The jury of seven men and five women found Ford not guilty of first-degree murder, which would have required more evidence of premeditation. But the jury did not believe Ford's contention that he was acting to save his own life in the brawl when he stabbed Frost, a former West Point cadet who grew up in Idaho.

In what testimony portrayed as a random encounter, Frost and two friends were walking down the street after a night of drinking and Frost, on a whim, slammed shut a gate at the apartment building.

That led to an argument and fight with Ford.

Woman sentenced in marriage sham scheme

WA SEATTLE — A 35-year-old Seattle-area woman who ran a visa fraud scheme involving sham marriages to Cambodians faces two years and nine months in prison.

Vuthy Sim was sentenced on three counts each of visa fraud and money laundering, conspiracy to commit those offenses and concealing an illegal alien.

U.S. District Judge James L. Robart said foreign nationals were denied visas because of spots that were taken in the fraud.

Sim was convicted on Jan. 23 after witnesses testified that she paid U.S. citizens \$20,000 to pose as being engaged to Cambodian nationals, while the Cambodian men and women paid her \$35,000.

Investigators found Sim made more than \$160,000 from a dozen Cambodian men and women who engaged in sham weddings to get U.S. green cards.

Kidnapping suspect mistakenly released

TX DALLAS — Police searched for a man mistakenly released from the Dallas County Jail in the investigation into an abduction and fake immigration agents.

Ezequiel Moreno, 45, of Irving was freed on \$100,000 bond on charges he planned a plot to take a 16-year-old girl and her mother from a Dallas mall. A judge had increased to \$1 million the bail for Moreno, who faced previous charges of sexually assaulting the girl.

District Attorney Craig Watkins told the Dallas Morning News that Moreno "beat the system" because he posted bail before the updated information was put into a jail computer.

The mother got away in Austin. The girl was released in San Antonio.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 017252) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

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OPINION

Leave Iraq sooner rather than later

BY GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON

Since U.S. troops withdrew from Iraq's cities, two months have passed, and so has the illusion that Iraq is smoothly transitioning to a normality free of sectarian violence. Recently, Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of U.S. troops there, "blanched" when asked if the war is "functionally over." According to The Washington Post's Greg Jaffe, Odierno said:

"There are still civilians being killed in Iraq. We still have people that are attempting to attack the new Iraqi order and the move towards democracy and a more open economy. So we still have some work to do."

No, we don't, even if, as Jaffe reports, the presence of 130,000 U.S. troops "serves as a check on Iraqi military and political leaders' baser and more sectarian instincts." After almost six and a half years, and 4,327 American dead and 31,483 wounded, with a war spiraling downward in Afghanistan, it would be indefensible for the U.S. military — overextended and in need of material repair and mental recuperation — to loiter in Iraq to improve the instincts of corrupt elites. If there is worse use of the U.S. military than "nation-building," it is adult supervision and behavior modification of other peoples' politicians.

More than 725 Iraqis have been killed by terrorism since the June 30 pullback of U.S. forces from the cities. All U.S. combat units are to be withdrawn from the country within a year. Up to 50,000 can remain as "advisers" to an Iraqi government that is ostentatious about its belief that the presence of U.S. forces is superfluous and obnoxious.

The advisers are to leave by the end of 2011, by which time the final two years of the U.S. military presence will have achieved ... what? Already that presence is irrelevant to the rising chaos, which the Iraqi government can neither contain nor

refrain from participating in: Security forces seem to have been involved in the recent robbery of a state-run bank in central Baghdad.

Washington Post columnist David Ignatius correctly argues that "without the backstop of U.S. support," Iraq is "desperately vulnerable" to Iranian pressure. He also reports, however, that an Iraqi intelligence official says Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's links with Iran are so close that he "uses an Iranian jet with an Iranian crew for his official travel." Whenever U.S. forces leave, Iran will still be Iraq's neighbor.

Kenneth Pollack of the Brookings Institution, writing in The National Interest, notes that although rising Iraqi nationalism might help "heal the rifts between Sunni and Shia," it also might exacerbate relations with the Kurdish semi-state in northern Iraq, where control of much oil and the city of Kirkuk is being contested.

The militia parties that ruled Iraq from 2003 to 2007 remain, Pollack says, the major political parties, although mostly without militias. They "still bribe and extort," "assassinate and kidnap," "steal and vandalize" and try to prevent the emergence of new political parties that are "more secular, more democratic, more representative, less corrupt and less violent." If they succeed and "America is forced out," Pollack says, "the glimmers of democracy will fade and Iraq will be lost again." But if democracy is still just a glimmer that will be extinguished by the withdrawal of a protective U.S. presence, its extinction can perhaps be delayed for two more years but cannot be prevented.

The 2008 U.S.-Iraq security agreement must be submitted to a referendum by the Iraqi people. If they reject it, U.S. forces must leave the country in a year. Pollack believes that if al-Maliki pushes to hold the referendum in January, coinciding with the national elections, the agreement will become the campaign issue and will indi-

cate that al-Maliki wants U.S. forces removed in order to enlarge his freedom of action. The United States should treat this as a Dirty Harry Moment: Make our day.

Many scholars believe, Pollack says, that nations which suffer civil wars as large as Iraq's was between 2004 and 2006 have "a terrifyingly high rate of recidivism." Two more years of U.S. military presence cannot control whether that is in Iraq's future. Some people believe the war in Iraq was not only "won" but vindicated by the success of the 2007 U.S. troop "surge." Yet as Iraqi violence is resurgent, the logic of triumphalism leads here:

If, in spite of contrary evidence, the U.S. "surge" permanently dampened sectarian violence, all U.S. forces can come home sooner than the end of 2011. If, however, the "surge" did not so succeed, U.S. forces must come home sooner.

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

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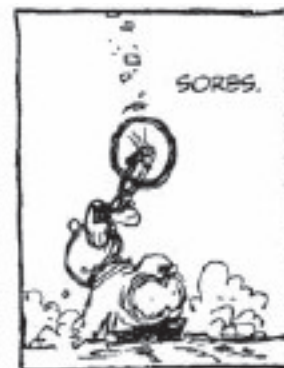
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Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Prickly City



BY SCOTT STANTIS

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



JOHN ROSE/Scripps Howard



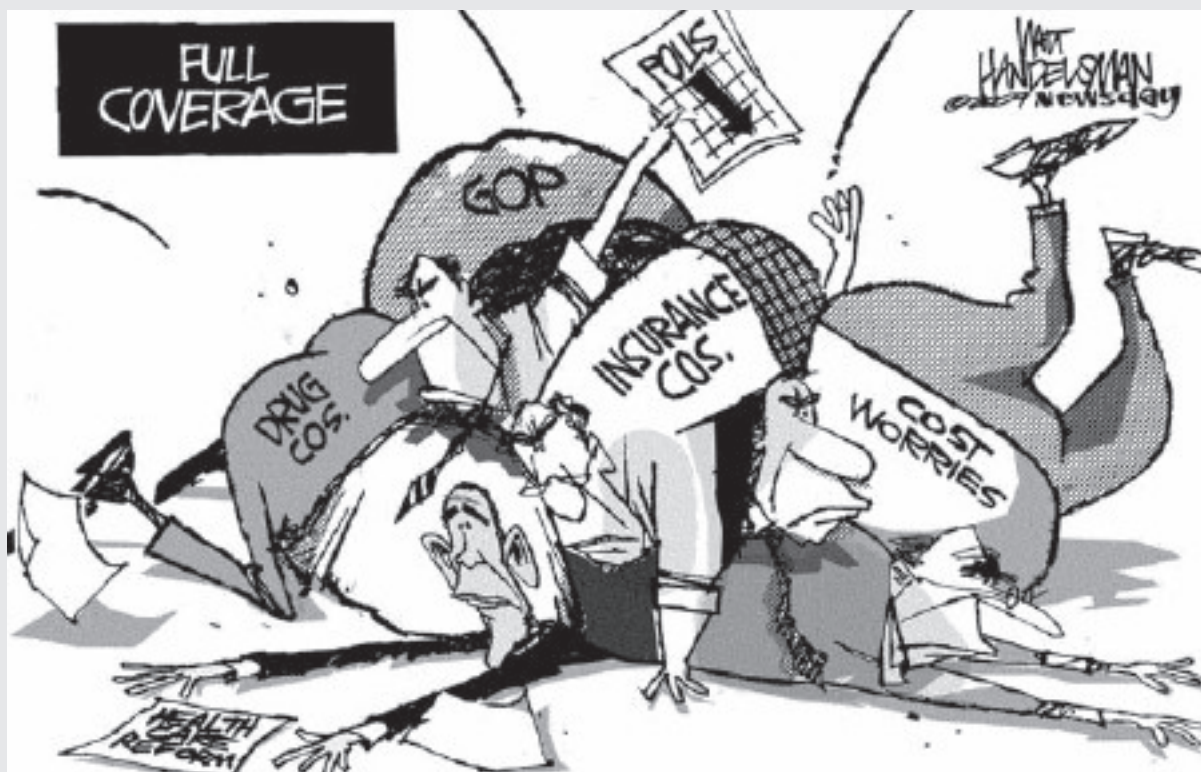
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Horoscope

Here's a short list of suggested activities to make the most of the next few hours: Clean, sort, talk to friends, e-mail, handle business, send out the mail, organize, pay bills, handle transportation issues and charge your phone. Mercury goes retrograde tomorrow, and for the rest of the month, it might be more challenging to get to some of these tasks.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 5). You find the thrilling side of life this year. Over the next 10 weeks, you reach out and pull more passion into your world. An avid supporter will help you take a new career trajectory in November. Developments in your family life will lead to travel and celebration in January. Invest in your environment in April. Libra and Capricorn people adore you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are in a position of authority and it feels so right. That is, until you have to reprimand, delegate a job no one wants or take an assignment away from the one who's not doing it correctly. Well, someone has to be the boss!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today's tasks may not be inherently interesting, but you bring something special to them anyhow. There is music in you — a fast, energetic beat that drives you to accomplish your work quickly and with flair.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are excited about your prospects and will explore each option thoroughly. Your attitude will have a positive effect on others, and you can make even the most curmudgeonly character smile.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Upgrades are not always fun. There's still an adjustment to be made, and you're not sure that it will all work out for the better. If you can stay flexible and positive, the world will soon be spinning in your hand.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have a wild side, but it won't come out unless called upon. There are only a few people who make you want to

change from the purring kitten to the untamed lion, and you'll run into one of them tonight

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may perceive someone to be in a position of weakness, but unless they agree with your assessment, it is not true. This is true of your own position, too — it's only as good or bad as you think it is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Quick fixes aren't so quick if they cause you to be indebted to someone in the future. Handle issues in real time, and do it alone if you can. You'll find that you are even more skillful and able than you thought you were.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be in the mood to expand your gray matter. You'll

ask questions that challenge even those who are extremely knowledgeable. The more you exercise your intelligence the more intelligent you'll be.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You embrace your part in a cycle. Your job is important at this time, and later it will be important that you do a different job. Realizing that everything changes will help you keep a healthy perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have more options than you are currently seeing. Do not form a partnership because you think it will get you out of a tight spot. A "marriage" of convenience is the worst kind. Instead, ask someone wise for advice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You might be surprised by how things unfold, but you'll recover from the excitement and quickly get back to your plans. You are highly responsible and will take control of your mood instead of letting it control you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are those who thrive on juicy gossip, and they will be very persuasive today. You might even be tempted to sell your loved ones out by revealing their secrets or faults. Better to stay mum and keep your conscience clear.

Creators.com

Holiday Mathis



SUDOKU

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Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

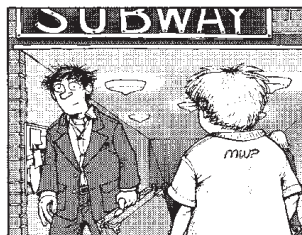
Yesterday's solution

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9	7	1	5	8	2	6	4	3
6	9	2	4	3	3	1	5	7
8	1	9	2	4	7	3	6	5
7	6	4	5	3	2	8	1	9
2	5	3	1	8	6	4	7	9

Beetle Bailey



Get Fuzzy



Candorville



Meaning of Lila



Knight Life



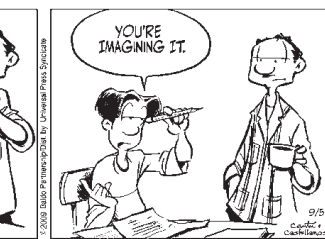
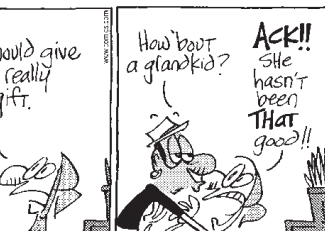
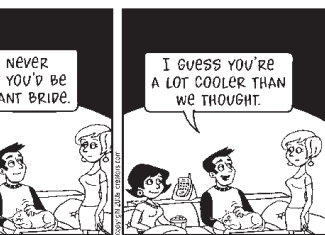
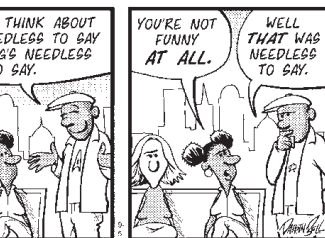
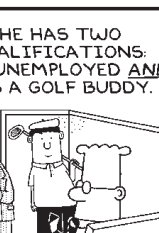
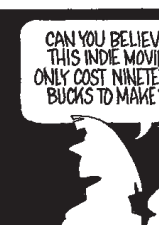
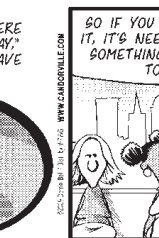
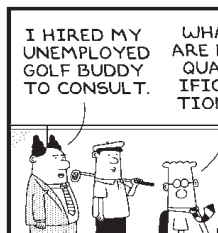
Baldo



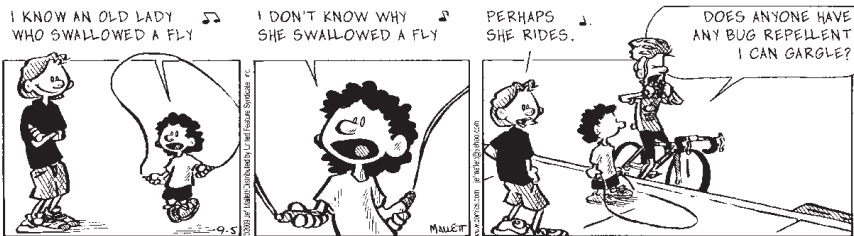
Other Coast



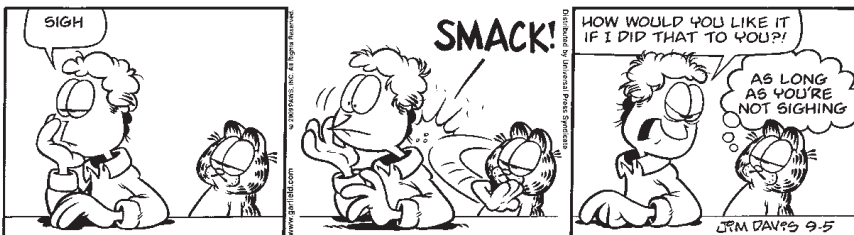
Dilbert



Frazz



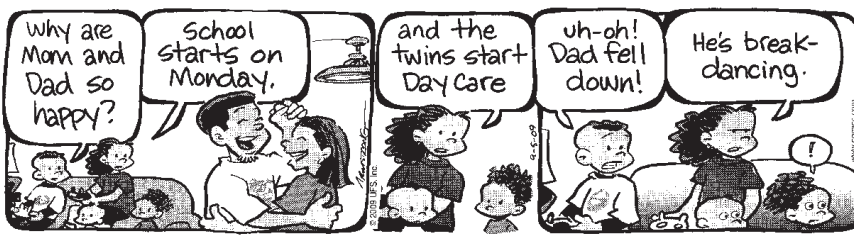
Garfield



Baby Blues



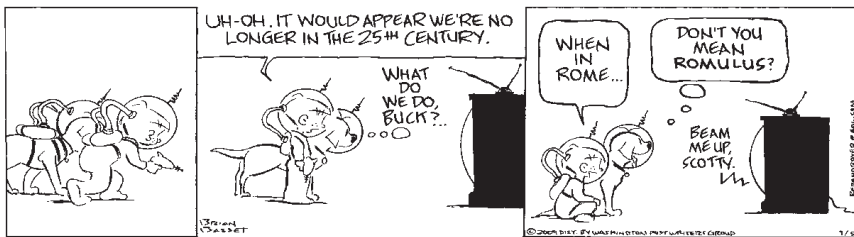
Jump Start



Zits



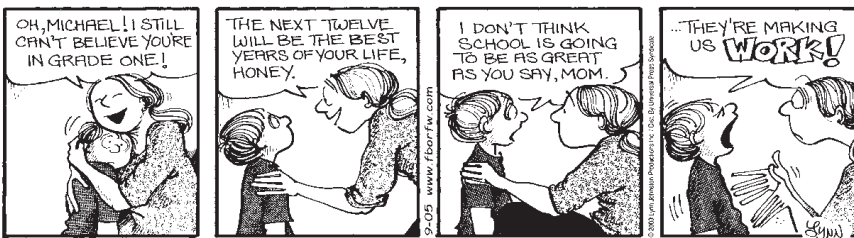
Red & Rover



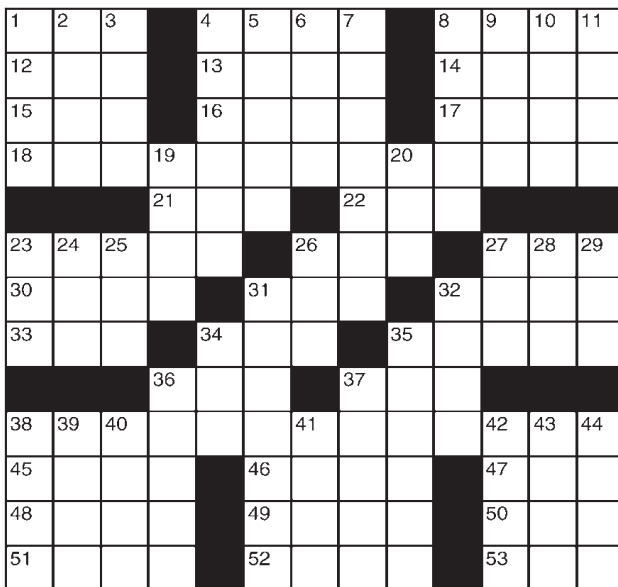
Hagar



Better or Worse



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Lustrous black
- 4 Point
- 8 Felons' flights
- 12 —Locka, FL
- 13 Cruising
- 14 Verve
- 15 Whammy
- 16 Dregs
- 17 Largest of the seven
- 18 July 1969 newsmaker
- 21 Pompous sort
- 22 Cyclotron particle
- 23 Hollanders
- 26 Present adornment
- 27 Crony
- 30 Out of control
- 31 Ice-T's role on "Law & Order: SVU"

DOWN

- 1 One of the Gospelists
- 2 Duel tool
- 3 Cab
- 4 Light carriage with a folding top
- 5 AOL clientele
- 6 Appear
- 7 Ardor
- 8 Memorize
- 9 Too
- 10 Primary
- 11 Unforeseen problem
- 19 Don't have
- 20 AAA job
- 23 Beavers'
- 24 Ref
- 25 Dress
- 26 Ginormous
- 27 Energy
- 28 Blond shade
- 29 Part of UCLA
- 31 Heater
- 32 Verse
- 34 Resume
- 35 Nauseated
- 36 Emulate Oksana Baiul
- 37 Transparent
- 38 Use a squeegee
- 39 Month after Shevat
- 40 Photog's choice
- 41 Verifiable
- 42 Lummoxes
- 43 Never again?
- 44 Pleasant

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-5

CRYPTOQUIP

Y'B JYQG LA MAOP W KGFJDBGB
OGJYNYADK FAPPDRYLS MAO
PAJJDQKQ WRB FWJJ YL WR

ASKLGO FJAYKLGO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH MAKEUP APPLICATOR DO YOU THINK A SNOB WOULD MOST LIKELY BE USING? HIGHBROW PENCIL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals D

Third marriage bothers parents

Dear Abby: My daughter, "Libby," is about to be married. It's her third trip to the altar, and her stepfather and I are not in favor of the marriage. After her first marriage — to a wonderful man — she had an affair with a married man who became husband No. 2. Within five years, she began another affair with a married neighbor. They are both now divorced and plan to be married later this year in a big church wedding.

My husband and I do not want to attend, but Libby has threatened to prevent us from seeing the grandkids if we don't accept husband No. 3 into our family.

How should we handle this? Should we go to the wedding even though we're adamantly opposed to it? It's obvious to us that our daughter needs professional help, which she seeks only when she begins a new affair. But we can't seem to impress upon her the im-

portance of taking some time off before remarrying for the wrong reasons.

— Mother of the Bride — Again

Dear M.O.B.: If only for the sake of your grandchildren, you should attend the wedding and make No. 3 as welcome as you can for as long as he lasts — which, with your daughter's track record, isn't likely to be long.

She appears to be emotionally unstable. The children need a constant in their lives, so put aside your disapproval and provide them with as much emotional support as you can. You can't "fix" your daughter — only she can do that — but you can be there for the grandkids, and that's what I recommend you do.

Dear Abby: I have two granddaughters. The older one is 11, and the younger one is 18 months. I know that when the time comes

for sweet 16, graduations and, most of all, weddings, I won't be here to celebrate with them. I would give anything to be able to leave them something that would let them know they were always in my heart and mind. Have you anything special to recommend?

— Always in My Heart

Dear Always: Being able to see you and hear your voice would be a wonderful gift. How about having videos made to be given to your granddaughters when they are 16, about to graduate and planning to be married? I'm sure you would have different thoughts to convey to them as they reach each of these significant milestones in their lives.

If that would be too costly, then write letters to be given to them on those occasions. And if you have the means, include a keepsake gift — perhaps a piece of jewelry that belonged to you.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Abby



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AXTEC
 [] [] [] [] [] []
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KYACT
 [] [] [] [] [] []

DROICH
 [] [] [] [] [] []
 NEW Jumble iPhone App go to: www.bit.ly/15QkFq

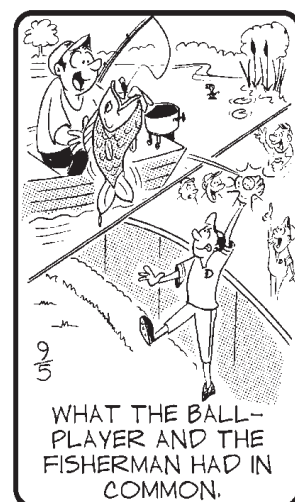
TAXHOR
 [] [] [] [] [] []

A: THE [] [] [] [] [] [] OF [] [] [] [] [] []

(Answers Monday)

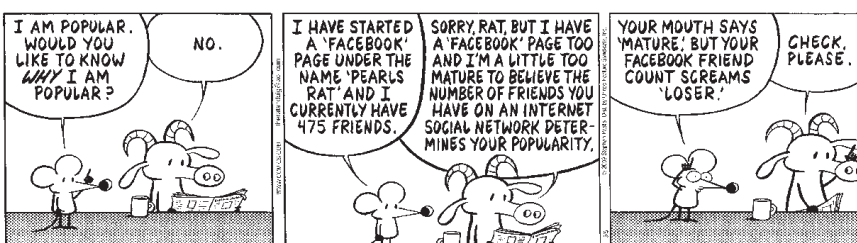
Yesterday's Jumbles: PRINT GOURD FURROW DETAIN
 Answer: What the submarine faced when it ran into trouble — AN "UNDER" TOW

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

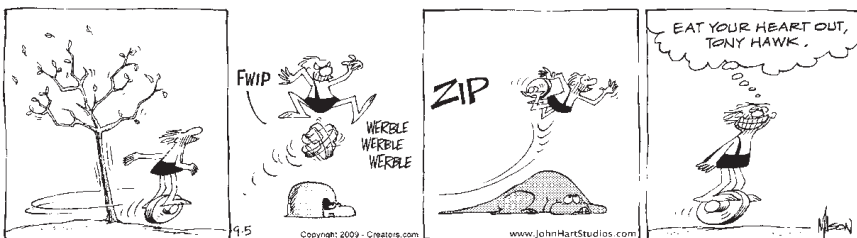


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

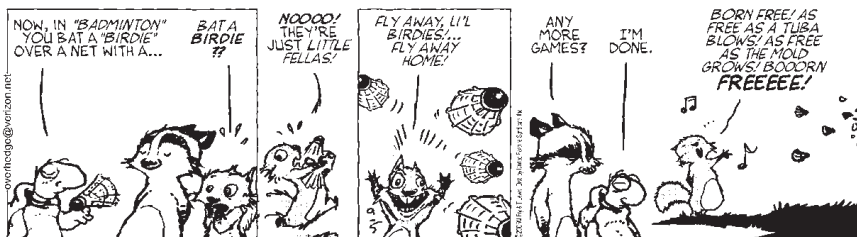
Pearls Before Swine



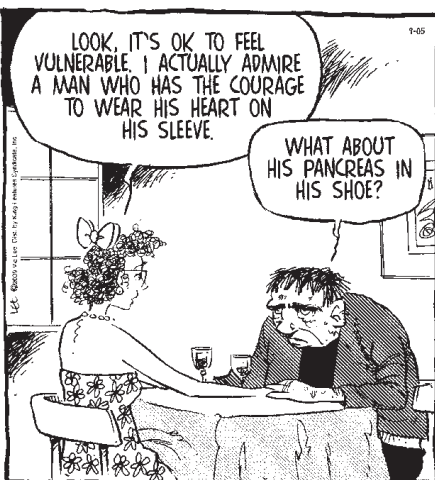
B.C.



Pardon My Planet Over The Hedge



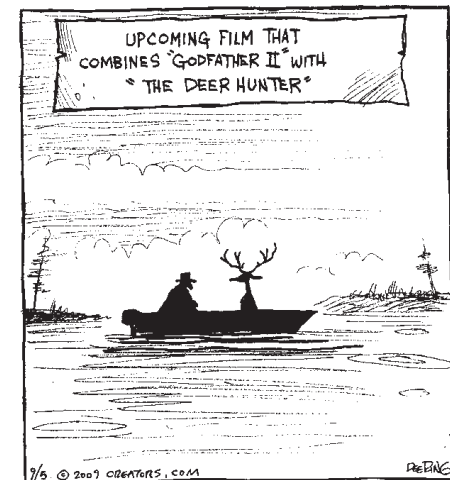
Non Sequitur



Strange Brew



Speed Bump



AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

	(AFN-ATLANTIC)	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-PACIFIC)	(PENTAGON)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(XTRA)
15:00	Sesame Street	Funniest Home Videos	(2:50) Movie "The Mummy" (1999) Brendan Fraser. A mummy seeks revenge for a 3,000-year-old curse.	The Rachel Maddow Show	Days of our Lives	Fit For Duty Battleground	How Do I Look?	(2:15) SportsCenter	(2:00) Sports
15:30		Planet's Funniest Animals							
16:00	The View	(3:50) Pokémon		Around the Services	Oprah Winfrey	Army Newswatch	Lost Worlds "The Vikings"	SportsCenter	MTV Hits Playlist
16:30		(4:00) Zatch Bell		Tavis Smiley		EXchange on Air			
17:00	Dr. Phil	(4:05) Movie "Black Beauty" (1994, Adventure)	Behind the Scenes	Nightly Business Report	Wheel of Fortune	Around the Services	King of the Hill	NFL Preseason Football Philadelphia Eagles at New York Jets. From Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J. (Same-day Tape Subject to Blackout)	X Play
17:30		Sean Bean. Old horse recalls hard life in Victorian England.	The Big Tease	Nightline	Jeopardy!	Downrange	That '70s Show		Punk'd
18:00	Judge Alex		What It Takes	The O'Reilly Factor	World News-Gibson	Today's Air Force	Daily Show- Jon Stewart		The Simpsons
18:30	The King of Queens		Entertainment Tonight		Around the Services	All Hands TV	The Colbert Report		Family Guy
19:00	Access Hollywood	Unfabulous	Movie "Ali" (2001) Will Smith, Jamie Foxx. Based on the life story of legendary boxer Muhammad Ali.	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Snatched"	Briefing Encore	Scrubs "Their Story II"		World Series of Poker
19:30	Judge Judy	True Jackson, VP		Today	CSI: Miami A murder occurs during a horse race.	Fit For Duty	My Name Is Earl "Bullies"	SportsCenter	
20:00	The Young and the Restless	Sonny With a Chance			Big Brother 11	Battleground	Chuck "Chuck Versus the Beefcake"	Quick Pitch	
20:30		Wizards of Waverly Place				Recon Revisited			
21:00	General Hospital	Wildfire "Impressions"	(1:15) Movie "Ruby Bridges" (1998) Chaz Monet. A 6-year-old black student faces public school integration.	Today		Around the Services Pacific Report	Brothers & Sisters "Troubled Waters" (Part 2 of 2)	ESPNNEWS	South Park
21:30									South Park
22:00	Days of our Lives	Heroes The fates of Peter, Nathan and Matt.		America's Newsroom	Pacific Report	Briefing Encore	Seinfeld "The Rye"	College Football Utah State at Utah. (Taped)	The Best Damn Sports Show Period
22:30						All Hands TV	Friends		
23:00	Oprah Winfrey	7th Heaven "With Honors"	Movie "Speed" (1994, Action) Keanu Reeves.	Newsroom	The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	Today's Air Force	Daily Show- Jon Stewart		Attack of the Show!
23:30					Late Show-Letterman	Downrange	The Colbert Report		

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2009

00:00	Wheel of Fortune	Unfabulous	(11:00) Movie "Speed" (1994, Action) Keanu Reeves.	MSNBC Live	Late Show-Letterman	Recon	Late Night With Jimmy Fallon	(10:00) College Football Utah State at Utah. (Taped)	X Play
00:30	Jeopardy!	True Jackson, VP				Fit For Duty			Punk'd
1:00	Headline News	Sonny With a Chance	(10:10) Movie "Of Mice and Men" (1992) John Malkovich. Based on Steinbeck's novel about two friends in the 1930s.	Happening Now	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	The Grill Sergeants	Scrubs "Their Story"	SportsCenter	The Simpsons
1:30	ATS/AFN Report	Wizards of Waverly Place			Judge Judy	Around the Services	My Name Is Earl		Family Guy "Running Mates"
2:00	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Snatched"	Wildfire "Impressions"		Newsroom	CSI: NY "Live or Let Die"	Downrange	One Tree Hill "I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness"		World Series of Poker
2:30						The American Veteran			
3:00	CSI: Miami A murder occurs during a horse race.	Heroes The fates of Peter, Nathan and Matt.	(1:15) Movie "Ali" (2001, Biography) Will Smith, Jamie Foxx, Jon Voight. Based on the life story of legendary boxer Muhammad Ali.	MSNBC Live	Oprah Winfrey	EXchange on Air	Third Watch "Walking Wounded"	U.S. Open Tennis Men's Second Round & Women's Third Round. From the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, N.Y. (Live)	
3:30						State Dept Briefing			
4:00	Big Brother 11	7th Heaven "With Honors"		Studio B With Shepard Smith	Dr. Phil	Battleground	Seinfeld "The Rye"		South Park
4:30						Around the Services	Friends		South Park
5:00	Headline News	Barney & Friends		The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer	Good Morning America	This Week in the Pentagon	Namaste Yoga		The Best Damn Sports Show Period
5:30	The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	Oobi	Movie "Ruby Bridges" (1998, Drama) Chaz Monet, Penelope Ann Miller, Michael Beach.	Glenn Beck	Good Morning America	National Guard News	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad		Attack of the Show!
6:00		Sesame Street				Downrange	Easy Entertaining		
6:30	Late Show With David Letterman	My Friend Rabbit	(1:15) Movie "North Shore" (1987) Matt Adler, Gregory Harrison. A naive Arizona teen challenges Hawaii's perilous surf.	Around the Services	Dragon	Around the Services	Ace of Cakes		
7:00		Clifford's Puppy Days		NBC Nightly News	Ribert & Robert's	Briefing Encore	Ultimate Goals	SportsCenter	MTV Hits Playlist
7:30	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Ni Hao, Kai-lan		World News-Gibson	Maya & Miguel	Downrange	Clean House		Sports
8:00		Mickey Mouse Clubhouse		CBS Evening News	Danny Phantom	Fit For Duty		ESPNNEWS	
8:30	Judge Judy	Sid the Science Kid	(1:05) Movie "Titanic" (1997, Drama) Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Billy Zane. Oscar-winning account of the doomed 1912 ocean liner.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	College Football Tulsa at Tulane. (Live)	Recon Revisited	MythBusters "More Myths Revisited"	NFL Preseason Football Dallas Cowboys at Minnesota Vikings. From the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)	
9:00	CSI: NY "Live or Let Die"	Phineas and Ferb		Hannity		State Dept Briefing	The Blue Planet Half-moon fish; loggerhead turtles.		Sports
9:30		The Buzz on Maggie		Anderson Cooper 360		AFN Europe Report	Dirty Jobs Wind farm; garbage dump.		
10:00	Oprah Winfrey	American Dragon: Jake Long		Special Report With Bret Baier	Entertainment Studios.com	FNG Useful benefits.	Latin Lifestyles	SportsCenter	
10:30	Dr. Phil	My Life as a Teenage Robot		Campbell Brown	Criss Angel Mindfreak	Battleground	Urban Style		
11:00		Static Shock		Your World With Neil Cavuto	Expedition Africa "Hunters Become the Hunted"	Fit For Duty	Designed to Sell	Baseball Tonight	
11:30	CBS Evening News	Teen Kids News		The Rachel Maddow Show	Access Hollywood	AFN Europe Report	Tyler's Ultimate	NFL Live	
12:00	ESPNNews	Grossology	(4:00) Movie "Grease" (1978, Musical) John Travolta. Disparate summer lovers meet again as high-school seniors.	Around the Services	Deadliest Catch Deckhand has a severe injury.	The Grill Sergeants	Chopped "High Hopes" The judges have high hopes.	SportsCenter	Sports
12:30	NBC Nightly News	Out There		Nightly Business Report	Law & Order "Called Home"	Fit For Duty	Eureka Kim struggles to identify a mysterious dead body.		MTV Hits Playlist
13:00	World News-Gibson	The Saddle Club	(4:45) Movie "Moulin Rouge" (2001, Musical) Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor. A writer shares a bittersweet romance with a nightclub diva.	Tavis Smiley	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Giunta Family"	Battleground	Stargate Atlantis The team is lead to a thriving civilization.		Top 20 Countdown
14:00	Dragon	Faithful Friends		The O'Reilly Factor	World News-Gibson	Recon Revisited	That '70s Show		Top 20 Countdown
14:30	Ribert & Robert's	Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files	(4:50) Movie "Untamed Heart" (1993, Romance) Christian Slater, Marisa Tomei. Minneapolis waitress falls for quirky busboy.	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	ESPNNEWS	Army Newswatch	The King of Queens		ECW With Todd Grisham & Matt Striker.
15:00	Maya & Miguel	Animal Miracles "Saving Grace"		Today	Law & Order "Skate or Die"	This Week in the Pentagon	Everybody Loves Raymond		WWE SmackDown!
15:30	Danny Phantom	Hercules: The Legendary Journeys "Mercenary"			CSI: NY "Page Turner"	The Grill Sergeants	Samantha Who?		
16:00	Naruto	SpongeBob SquarePants	(8:50) Movie "Bigger Than the Sky" (2005) Marcus Thomas, Amy Smart. A bad actor plays Cyrano de Bergerac in a play.	MSNBC Live	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	Fit For Duty	The Big Bang Theory		
16:30	Darcy's Wild Life	The Fairly OddParents		Bulls and Bears	Headline News	Battleground	The Unit "Bad Beat"	Sports	SportsNation Hosts Colin Cowherd and Michelle Beadle.
17:00	Entertainment Studios.com	Bindi the Jungle Girl	(10:50) Movie "The Waterboy" (1998) Adam Sandler.	Cavuto on Business	American Dad	Recon	Prison Break "Selfless"		Attack of the Show!
17:30	Criss Angel Mindfreak	Lemur Kingdom			'Til Death	All Hands TV			
18:00	Expedition Africa "Hunters Become the Hunted"	Movie "Enchanted" (2007) Amy Adams. Live action/animated. A princess from a fairy-tale world lands in the Big Apple.			Back to You	Pacific Report			
18:30		Dawson's Creek "Beauty Contest"				Today's Air Force			
19:00	Access Hollywood	Movie "Stuck in the Suburbs" (2004, Comedy-Drama) Danielle Panabaker, Brenda Song.				Recon			
19:30		Oobi				This Week in the Pentagon			
20:00	Deadliest Catch Deckhand has a severe injury.								
20:30	Law & Order "Called Home"								
21:00									
21:30	Law & Order "Skate or Die"								
22:00									
22:30	CSI: NY "Page Turner"								
23:00									
23:30									

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

00:00	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	The Simpsons	(10:50) Movie "The Waterboy" (1998) Adam Sandler.	Forbes on FOX	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Savant"	FNG Useful benefits.	(11:30) Austin City Limits	(10:00) Sports	Top 20 Countdown
00:30		The Simpsons	(3:35) Movie "GoodFellas" (1990, Crime Drama) Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta, Joe Pesci. An account of a hood's tenure in a mob crime family.	Cashin' In	Bones "The Girl With the Curl"	Fit For Duty	Denise Richards		
1:00	Sports	Movie "Enchanted" (2007) Amy Adams. Live action/animated. A princess from a fairy-tale world lands in the Big Apple.		Newsroom	House "Distractions"	Around the Services	Trading Spouses: Meet Your New Mommy "Martin/Shatz"		Sports
1:30				Your Money		Around the Services	Boston Legal "Lincoln" (Part 1 of 2)		
2:00						Around the Services	Judging Amy		
2:30									
3:00		Movie "Stuck in the Suburbs" (2004, Comedy-Drama) Danielle Panabaker, Brenda Song.	(1:15) Movie "Dan in Real Life" (2007) Steve Carell. An advice columnist falls in love with his brother's girlfriend.	This Week in the Pentagon	Law & Order "Skate or Die"	First Air Force Now	Austin City Limits "Tribute to Bluesman Jimmy Reed"	Sports	
3:30				Wall Street Journal Report	CSI: NY "Page Turner"	Battleground			
4:00		The Simpsons		Glenn Beck	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	National Guard News	Namaste Yoga		
4:30		Barney & Friends	(8:50) Movie "Bigger Than the Sky" (2005) Marcus Thomas.	Newsroom		This Week in the Pentagon	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad		SportsNation Hosts Colin Cowherd and Michelle Beadle.
5:00	Sports	Oobi				The Benning Report			
5:30									

News

MIDDLE EAST HEADLINES

Alleged serial rapist barred from work at U.S. bases in

Sports

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Pacific scoreboard for the April 8 edition

Weather

Enter city or zip code

Military News

Sports

Weather

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Announcements 040

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Your Hometown Newspaper
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Autos for Sale 141

Atsugi - 1994 Honda Accord Ex 2.2L (2,200 cc) 4-cylinder SOHC VTEC, 4 door sedan, Cold AC, Remote Starter, Aftermarket Parts installed, New KYB Shocks and Trust Springs, Aftermarket rims with new tires. Aftermarket stereo system, and much more. 66,000km (41,000 miles) everything working in good working condition. Paperwork good until August 2011. Asking \$5,500 (OBO) Call 08032577904.

Atsugi - 2002 BMW 318i Coupe. Newer body style, only one on Atsugi with a Y Plate. JCI until April 2011, new brakes, great tires. Only 60,000km, no accidents. Call 080-5677-7554 for a test drive. \$5000.00

Atsugi - 2006 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab (US Spec), red, 15,000 miles. Power doors, w/l n d o w s , l o c k s , A M / F M / C D / D V D / i p o d , 10" sub and amp. JCI due March 2010, 2009 road tax paid. \$12,000 OBO. Contact Scott at 09029083706.

Atsugi - FOR SALE 1997 Honda Accord \$1800 OBO. Power windows, in good working condition. JCI 'til Apr '10; Base Inspection 'til Feb '10. Contact Kelly @ 080-6786-6900.

Autos for Sale 141

Misawa, Japan - 1997 Subaru Impreza - JCI good through Oct. 2010. A/C Heater, CD player 4 wheel drive asking \$2000 OBO Please call 080-3178-1556 or email elaina.sellon@yahoo.com looking for a reliable inexpensive car then here you go a Dark Blue 4 door

Misawa, Japan - For Sale: Honda civic. JCI good until March 2011 and the 2009 road tax paid. Automatic transmission 6 disc CD changer Working AC Asking \$1500 OBO call 0176-52-7219 or email combo1982@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 1986 Sprinter Trueno AE86 with JCI for 2 full years and cold AC 170,000 km TRD Exhaust HKS Intake TRD Suspension TRD 2way Diff NGK Ignition Vents NGK Plugs Cosco F/R Strut Bar Water Temp Oil Press. / Volt Gauges etc. only serious buyers make a reasonable offer all serious offers will be considered. Call 425-274-4379 or email dani_cco3@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1994 Toyota Cresta Power windows. Tilt Steering, Automatic, A/C, MP3 USB Kenwood CD receiver, 12" sub and Earthquake Amp. JCI until 10 Jan. 2010 asking \$1699 will Accept 2 payments. Please call 090-6860-0658 or email pittxx11@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 1996 Mitsubishi Delica-Space Gear Van; Seats 8; Cold AC; power windows w/ moon roof and sun roof. JCI 26 Apr 2010. Asking \$1200 OBO. Runs great, but having engine cooling problems. Sean 080-3511-6553

Announcements 040

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Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - 1990 Nissan Must Go! Red, great for off road, iPod USB hardware (plug and play), Red, great for off road, iPod USB hardware (plug and play), Kenwood remote control CD player, sunroof, recent tune up (replace spark plugs, oil change, air filter), has a few dings but overall a great car. JCI till April 2010. Asking \$1100 but willing to negotiate. For sale now but we will need to use till Sept. 4. PCS'ng email pittman_five@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1990 Nissan Terrano - PCS'ng Must Go! Red, great for off road, iPod USB hardware (plug and play), Kenwood remote control CD player, sunroof, recent tune up (replace spark plugs, oil change, air filter), has a few dings but overall a great car. JCI till April 2010. Asking \$1100 but willing to negotiate. For sale now but we will need to use till Sept. 4. Please email pittman_five@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1994 Silver Nissan Primera 4v family will be PCS'ng soon and I am looking to sell my vehicle. This vehicle has a roomy trunk and easily seats 5 adults. Currently it has 110,000 km (rough estimate) which translates to about 70,000 miles. Very reliable vehicle and fits into tight spaces. Asking price \$1200 for more information please call (313) 347-1026 or (080) 5650-1979 and ask for David.

Yokota, Japan - 1994 Toyota Cresta Power windows. Tilt Steering, Automatic, A/C, MP3 USB Kenwood CD receiver, 12" sub and Earthquake Amp. JCI until 10 Jan. 2010 asking \$1699 will Accept 2 payments. Please call 090-6860-0658 or email pittxx11@hotmail.com

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Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - 1997 R33 Skyline GTS Four door automatic silver skyline. Great A/C and heater Road Tax and insurance paid fun great, lots of room, great family car. 40th Anniversary Skyline Edition Contact for more details. JCI until 2010 asking \$2000. Please call (904)229-0833 or email need to sell ASAP A S A P hannahlovestigster@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 1998 Honda Accord Gold, 4-door good family car. Great AC and heater, 6-cd changer and in-dash navigation system runs great. Haven't had any problems with it. JCI until Feb. 2011 asking \$2000 OBO PCS September 5th, so need to sell ASAP Please call 412-246-3000 or email ashley.smith@yokota.af.mil

Yokota, Japan - 1999 Daihatsu Gino Cule, 1950's style, compact car Dark purple & chrome, JCI until June 2010, 2 door, power windows & locks, great AC & heat, automatic, AM/FM stereo w/CD player, 75,438 miles, only takes \$20 to fill tank! Bought last year & only put 500 miles on it. Easy to drive on small streets! Excellent condition! PCS'ng in 2 weeks must sell JCI until June 2010 asking \$2000 OBO Call 0805-414-5420

Yokota, Japan - 1999 Daihatsu Gino Cule, 1950's style, compact car Dark purple & chrome, JCI until June 2010, 2 door, power windows & locks, great AC & heat, automatic, AM/FM stereo w/CD player, 75,438 miles, only takes \$20 to fill tank! Bought last year & only put 500 miles on it. Easy to drive on small streets! Excellent condition! PCS'ng in 2 weeks must sell JCI until June 2010 asking \$2000 OBO Call 0805-414-5420

Yokota, Japan - 94' Nissan Largo (pictures coming soon), Navy Blue, seats 7, CD player, replaced tires during JCI, will get oil changed right before transfer. Available 10 Sept, must sell due to PCS. JCI until 15 July 2011 asking \$2000 OBO Please call 214-261-6465 or email spooky_99@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 95 Toyota Chasers. JCI till Jan 2010! Great car runs very well New tires, Cold air condition automatic just over 100K. Clean interior - great tires, tinted windows. \$1500-PCS'ng soon, need to sell -Please contact via phone 080-5181-1883

Yokota, Japan - Black 1994 Toyota Soarer w/ sun roof and JCI 2011, cold air, clean interior, good tires, tinted windows, power windows, 6 disc CD changer, strong 2.0 engine, and JCI until 2011. Asking \$2500 OBO oil change will be done before selling the car. Please call if interested! need to sell ASAP! Contact will be at 080-6756-8173

Yokota, Japan - Black 1994 Toyota Soarer w/ sun roof and JCI 2011, cold air, clean interior, good tires, tinted windows, power windows, 6 disc CD changer, strong 2.0 engine, and JCI until 2011. Asking \$2500 OBO oil change will be done before selling the car. Please call if interested! need to sell ASAP! Contact will be at 080-6756-8173

Yokota, Japan - Black 1994 Toyota Soarer w/ sun roof and JCI 2011, cold air, clean interior, good tires, tinted windows, power windows, 6 disc CD changer, strong 2.0 engine, and JCI until 2011. Asking \$2500 OBO oil change will be done before selling the car. Please call if interested! need to sell ASAP! Contact will be at 080-6756-8173

Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - Family Deal - two cars for \$1100 1996 Toyota Scepter - JCI until Oct 2010, 7seater, Moon-roof, GPS, A/C, reliable family car. 1994 Toyota Starlet - JCI until Oct 09, 4 door, A/C, reliable car. We've had both cars for over two years and haven't had any problems. Please call Joe or Jayne 717-265-2649. 224-0646

Yokota, Japan - R32 GTST type M skyline! Britt rare super RB20det engine rb25 turbo new spark plugs FMIC GTR fuel pump HKS SSO blow off greddy prophocy 1 E. Boost controller front ten tension rods white GTR hood S14 kouki eye lids GTR front bumper aftermarket front fenders slotted brake rotors in the front and rear strut bar GTR driver seat Racing seatbelt harness W/padding CD player/ new rear speakers front and rear strut bars HICAS lock Mar 2011. Please call more on Mar 2011 \$2200 OBO Please 954-381-3971 state or email johnhorizalready@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Silver 1998 Nissan Cube Great gas mileage. Available immediately, JCI until March 2010 asking \$1500 Please call (313) 347-1047

Yokota, Japan - Toyota Aristo 19' Wheels (New Tires) New leather Seats CD Player 12in Sub 400 Watt Stereo w/ Talking Alarm/w sensors 2 key remotes. Asking \$3500 OBO Call 263-7369 / cell 080-678-6793 or e-mails@hotlmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Toyota Estima Van Due to PCS, please call Hollis @ 1-763-354-3526 GPS system Interior/Exterior great condition Power windows/locks AC & Heater work great! AM/FM/CD Pioneer stereo w/ detachable face JVC speakers Seats 8 people 2nd row seats can be turned to face back row or lay down flat Back seats fold up to fit big items Van great! JCI good till July 2010 Road tax paid Asking \$1500 OBO Please call 763-354-3526 or email sarah1576a@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Toyota Lucida JCI due Mar 2011, asking \$1800 OBO. Option 2 - JCI renewed by owner asking Price \$2200 payment Options. Please Call 090-349-80860 or email maxine.howard@yokota.af.mil

Yokota, Japan - Truck 4 Sale! 1994 Nissan Terrano - PCS move. JCI expires Oct 2009 buyer reviews. Asking price \$1500. Option 2 - JCI renewed by owner asking Price \$2200 payment Options. Please Call 090-349-80860 or email maxine.howard@yokota.af.mil

Yokota, Japan - Aprilia RS 125 Motorcycle 2007 - 2900KM, JCI until Sept 2011. UMEDA sells new for 550,000 yen. Asking \$4500 OBO Please call 090-8504-7284

Yokota, Japan - Aprilia RS 125 Motorcycle 2007 - 2900KM, JCI until Sept 2011. UMEDA sells new for 550,000 yen. Asking \$4500 OBO Please call 090-8504-7284

Autos for Sale 141

Zama, 1991 4-wheel drive Nissan Terrano: Excellent condition; JCI just renewed good until August 2011; English GPS, ETC Machine; Kenwood Stereo with USB port connection with thumb drives can hold over 100 CDs, power amp and Electro-hydraulic shocks. Many more extras. Email Larry at LPTT69@hotmail.com or call 090-8053-3919 \$1800 or best offer.

Zama - 2006 Chevrolet Corvette C6 Z06 Styling, Silver, 20" rims, American Spec, Excellent Condition, Less than 25,000 miles, Garage kept, Glass Coating, Hurricane Intake, Bassani Exhaust System, Z06 Design, Leather Interior, Sport Racing Suspension, 450HP, JCI, Targa-Top; plus much more. Priced to sell, Kelly Blue Book, Serious Offers Only: 090-851-79568 or 628-4288

Motorcycles 164

Yokota, Japan - 1996 Harley Davidson Low Rider 1996 Harley-Davidson dyna low rider - FXDL only 7500 miles, stored in garage, Custom paint and well taken care of. Serious offers will be considered. Asking price \$10,000 Please call 313 347-1005 or email digibag@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1998 Honda CB 400 Beginners bike with low mileage. Blue - Good condition. JCI until August 2010 asking \$1200 Please call 090-349-80860 or email maxine.howard@yokota.af.mil

Yokota, Japan - 2000 Honda X-11 100,000km, new battery, not recommended for beginners unless strong enough. Reduced for sacrifice sale from \$3,950 to \$3,450.00 need to sale or trade for other than motorcycle what do you have? Willing to finance Please call 210-547-9936 or email samueliejohn@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 2007 HD FLSTF Fatboy. Includes passenger seat, removable backrest (required for your passenger), saddlebag, and all factory manuals! Extras are available. If you want to buy a reasonably priced HD to ride to ride while you are here in Japan, this is a rare opportunity. I'm asking \$15,000.00 but all reasonable offers will be considered. I love this bike! I can only sell it because I'm PCS'ng back home and I don't need two. JCI until July 2010 asking \$15000 Please email bakaboy45@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Aprilia RS 125 Motorcycle 2007 - 2900KM, JCI until Sept 2011. UMEDA sells new for 550,000 yen. Asking \$4500 OBO Please call 090-8504-7284

Yokota, Japan - Aprilia RS 125 Motorcycle 2007 - 2900KM, JCI until Sept 2011. UMEDA sells new for 550,000 yen. Asking \$4500 OBO Please call 090-8504-7284

Baby Items 200

Yokota, Japan - Aprica baby carrier please come to Ome city to pick it up or pay for the delivery fee asking \$5 Contact 080-1004-2765

Yokota, Japan - City Mini Stroller Rarely used. Very easy to use and place in your car. Asking \$200 Call 954-676-4031 or email baldini3@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Fisher Price - Rainforest Bouncer Seat full of perks for both babies and parents, the Fisher-Price Rainforest Bouncer offers a place for baby to play, rest, and develop key motor, visual, and auditory skills. Designed for use from birth until baby can sit up unassisted, this activity seat features a fun and colorful jungle theme, complete with delightful toys and sounds. Original purchase price \$59. Gently used. Asking \$20 Please call 090 1793 3079

Yokota, Japan - Lansinoh Double Electric Breast Pump is an efficient, affordable, electric pump designed for everyday long term use at home or away. The patented system prevents milk back up in the tubing and pump. Dual independent controls for speed and suction allow for personal settings to simulate your baby's nursing pattern. This pump was used twice while we were in the states. We paid \$150, will sell for \$125 OBO. Please call 404-478-4616

Bicycles 220

Yokota, Japan - 2009 Cannondale 613 road bike. Size is 52cm, K-wing carbon fiber bars, triple front crank, and excellent condition. (Buyer will need pedals) \$700.00 firm Please contact 954-347-2146-6325 or 080-4059-2674 Email ga222@gmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 2009 Cannondale CAA09-7 Blue 2009 Cannondale CAA09-7. Size is 52cm, excellent condition. Just 4 months old with only a few rides on tires. Asking \$600.00 firm Please call Kevin 080-3311-8852 or pre-d1128@yahoo.com.

Yokota, Japan - 21 Speed Ladies' Schwinn Mountain Bike you are here. Asking \$90 OBO Please call 858-686-6909 or email pattio31@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Kona stinky for sale. Not used to tennis much. Only went around 5 times last year, yet to go this year. Needs New seat if you care about the tears, other than that she's good to go. Also have a bike stand, and full body armor (upper part never used) for additional cost. Asking \$650 Please call 090-555-3434 or email grant@tsimages.com

Yokota, Japan - Kona stinky for sale. Not used to tennis much. Only went around 5 times last year, yet to go this year. Needs New seat if you care about the tears, other than that she's good to go. Also have a bike stand, and full body armor (upper part never used) for additional cost. Asking \$650 Please call 090-555-3434 or email grant@tsimages.com

Books 250

Yokota, Japan - Need PSY1000 book ASAP (3rd Edition) Looking for Psychology: A Journey (3rd Ed.) Please let me know ASAP. Price negotiable Please call 323-345-6970 Thanks!

Yokota, Japan - New Baby care Book practical guide to the first three years. By Dr. Miriam Stoppard asking \$10 Contact 080-1004-2765

Yokota, Japan - Project Management Fifth Edition Information Technology by Kathy Schwalbe. Asking \$40 call Sean 080-3511-6553

Clothing 320

Yokota, Japan - Cowboys boot (Western boot) Used cowboys boot in AAA grade in mix size for men and women sold at \$15.00 a pair in mix order of 25 pair Tel 514 333 0510

Yokota, Japan - Halloween Costume - Girl Infant/Toddler Everything in photo included. Stride Rite Shoes Size 5M, One Size 18M, Scarf (Hair/Neck), Glasses, Belt, Skirt (18M-2T), I had to order from several different sites online to complete outfit, it was expensive. Only worn 3 times, excellent condition very cute! Asking \$15 Please email lailani.sisson@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Ninja Costume - Boys Size Small Size Small - 100% Polyester Includes: Long Sleeve Top, Pants, Belt, 1 Mask w/ Red Dragons, and 1 Mask Plain Black. Asking \$5 Please email lailani.sisson@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Wilton Character Pans for Sale! I am spring cleaning and would like to move some of my inventory. I have the following cake pans for sale at \$5 each or \$40 for the whole lot: Dora, Elmo, SpongeBob, Blue's Clues, Scooby Doo, Twenty Bird, Suzy Q, Power Puff Girls, Ragedy Ann, Power Rangers, Jack-Lantern, Easter Bunny Please let me know if you're interested. First come first served. Please call 773-634-7741

Club/Parties 340

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AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.-College football: Utah State at Utah (dld).

Saturday
AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.-Tennis: U.S. Open, Day 5.
AFN-Xtra, 8 a.m.-Tennis: U.S. Open, Day 5.
AFN-Pacific, 9 a.m.-College football: Tulsa at Tulane.
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-NFL exhibition: Dallas at Minnesota.
AFN-Xtra, noon-MLB: San Diego at L.A. Dodgers (joined in progress).
AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.-MLB: Detroit at Tampa Bay (dld).
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-College football: Tulsa at Tulane (dld).

Sunday
AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.-College football: Akron at Penn State.
AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.-College football: Navy at Ohio State.
AFN-Xtra, 1 a.m.-College football: Minnesota at Syracuse.
AFN-Atlantic, 4:30 a.m.-College football: Nevada at Notre Dame.
AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.-College football: Georgia at Oklahoma State.
AFN-Xtra, 4:30 a.m.-College football: Missouri at Illinois.
AFN-Sports, 8 a.m.-College football: Brigham Young at Oklahoma (dld).
AFN-Xtra, 8 a.m.-Auto racing: NASCAR Nationwide Degree V12 300.
AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m.-College football: Alabama vs. Virginia Tech at Atlanta.
AFN-Xtra, 11 a.m.-College football: Maryland at California.
AFN-Sports, 11:30 a.m.-College football: Louisiana State at Washington.
AFN-Xtra, 2 p.m.-Tennis: U.S. Open, Day 6 (dld; joined in progress).
AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.-College football: Baylor at Wake Forest (dld).
AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m.-MLB: Boston at Chicago White Sox (dld).
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.-College football: San Jose State at Southern California (dld).
AFN-Xtra, 10 p.m.-MLS: Toronto at Colorado (dld).

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Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	20	9	.690	—
Atlanta	16	14	.533	4½
Detroit	14	15	.483	6
Washington	14	15	.483	6
Chicago	14	16	.467	6½
Connecticut	14	17	.452	7
New York	12	18	.400	8½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	21	10	.677	—
Seattle	19	11	.633	1½
Los Angeles	15	15	.500	5½
San Antonio	13	17	.433	7½
Minnesota	12	18	.400	8½
Sacramento	11	20	.355	10

Tuesday's games
Seattle 65, New York 58
Detroit 101, Phoenix 99
San Antonio 84, Minnesota 82, 2OT
Sacramento 90, Connecticut 70
Atlanta 84, Los Angeles 79

Wednesday's games
Phoenix 106, Indiana 90

Thursday's games
Seattle at Washington

Friday's games
New York at Connecticut
Indiana at Detroit
Washington at Chicago
Atlanta at Sacramento

NBA calendar
Sept. 10-11 — Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, Springfield, Mass.
Sept. 26 — Training camps open for teams competing in overseas exhibitions.
Sept. 29 — Training camps open for all other teams.
Oct. 23 — Preseason ends.
Oct. 26 — Rosters set for opening day.
Oct. 27 — Start of 2009-10 regular season.
Jan. 5 — 10-day contracts may be signed.
Jan. 10 — Contracts guaranteed for remainder of season.

High school

South Korea
Boys volleyball
Wednesday's summary
International Christian-Uijeongbu def. International Christian-Pyeongtaek 24-26, 18-25, 25-15, 25-19, 15-8
At Uijeongbu
ICS-U John Gang 18-for-22 serving, 8 aces; 8 set assists. Dohson Kim 12 set assists, 4 block points. Michael Freel 4 block points.

Pro football

NFL exhibition

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	3	0	0	1.000	49	32
New England	2	1	0	.667	60	56
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	.333	70	72
Buffalo	1	3	0	.250	66	89

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	2	2	0	.500	75	91
Houston	1	2	0	.333	40	65
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	42	46
Jacksonville	0	3	0	.000	65	68

THURSDAY'S GAMES						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	3	0	0	1.000	64	36
Cleveland	2	1	0	.667	50	44
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.667	50	27
Cincinnati	1	2	0	.333	35	47

WEST						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	1	2	0	.333	58	76
San Diego	1	2	0	.333	55	53
Denver	0	3	0	.000	46	71
Kansas City	0	3	0	.000	33	47

THURSDAY'S GAMES						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	1	2	0	.333	53	61
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	52	61
Philadelphia	1	2	0	.333	73	82
Washington	1	2	0	.333	41	63

THURSDAY'S GAMES						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	3	0	0	1.000	100	28
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	73	64
Tampa Bay	1	2	0	.333	50	60
Carolina	0	3	0	.000	47	68

THURSDAY'S GAMES						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	3	0	0	1.000	92	58
Minnesota	3	0	0	1.000	47	26
Chicago	2	1	0	.667	64	47
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	55	70

THURSDAY'S GAMES						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	3	0	0	1.000	58	49
Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	61	37
St. Louis	1	2	0	.333	60	61
Arizona	0	3	0	.000	53	81

NFL calendar
Sept. 5 — Roster cutdown to maximum of 53 players.
Sept. 10 — Season opener.

Pro soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF GA
Columbus	10	4	9	39	34 25
Chicago	10	6	8	38	33 28
New England	9	6	6	33	26 26
D.C. United	7	5	11	32	35 34
Toronto FC	8	8	7	31	30 29
Kansas City	5	10	6	21	20 29
New York	4	16	4	16	20 41

Western Conference					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF GA
Houston	11	7	7	40	31 22
Los Angeles	9	4	11	38	28 23
Seattle FC	8	6	10	34	29 23
Colorado	9	7	6	33	35 27
Real Salt Lake	10	9	6	33	25 27
Chivas USA	10	9	3	33	23 24
FC Dallas	6	11	5	23	31 31
San Jose	5	12	5	20	27 40

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games
Kansas City at New England
D.C. United at FC Dallas
Toronto FC at Colorado
Wednesday, Sept. 9
Kansas City at D.C. United
Saturday, Sept. 12
Colorado at Toronto FC
Seattle FC at D.C. United
Kansas City at New York
Chicago at Real Salt Lake
FC Dallas at Los Angeles

Tennis

U.S. Open
Wednesday
At The USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center
New York
Purse: \$21.6 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Men
First Round
Gael Monfils (13), France, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3.
Andreas Beck, Germany, def. Evgeny Korolev, Russia, 6-3, 6-4, 2-6, 2-6, 6-4.
Jurgen Melzer, Austria, def. Marat Safin, Russia, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.
Nicolas Kiefer, Germany, def. Michael Llodra, France, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.
Jurgen Melzer, Austria, def. Marat Safin, Russia, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, def. Chris Guccione, Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-0.
Rafael Nadal (3), Spain, def. Richard Gasquet, France, 6-2, 6-2, 6-3.
Thomas Bellucci, Brazil, def. Yen-hsun Lu, Taiwan, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.
Nicolas Almagro (32), Spain, def. Steve Darcis, Belgium, 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (8).
Jose Acasuso, Argentina, def. Marcos Daniel, Brazil, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.
Robby Ginepri, United States, def. Andrei Pavel, Romania, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, 6-0.
Daniel Koelliker, Austria, def. Rui Machado, Portugal, 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.
Juan Martin del Potro (6), Argentina, def. Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.
Philipp Petzschner, Germany, def. Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, 7-6 (3), 6-7 (6), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.
David Ferrer (18), Spain, def. Alberto Martin, Spain, 7-5, 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.
Gilles Simon (9), France, def. Daniel Gimeno-Traver, Spain, 6-4, 7-5 (3), 6-3.
Second Round
Lleyton Hewitt (31), Australia, def. Juan Ignacio Chela, Argentina, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.
Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Simon Greul, Germany, 6-3, 7-5, 7-5.
Second Round
Flavia Pennetta (10), Italy, def. Sania Mirza, India, 6-0, 6-0.
Li Na (18), China, def. Michelle Larcher de Brito, Portugal, 6-1, 6-3.
Aleksandra Wozniak, Canada, def. Amelia Mauresmo (17), France, 6-4, 6-0.
Elena Vesnina (31), Russia, def. Jill Craybas, United States, 7-6 (6), 6-1.
Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, def. Chang Kai-chen, Taiwan, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.
Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, def. Anabel Medina Garrigues (20), Spain, 6-1, 6-3.
Vera Zvonareva (7), Russia, def. Anna Chakvetadze, Russia, 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.
Venus Williams (3), United States, def. Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, 6-4, 6-2.
Maria Kirilenko, Russia, def. Agnieszka Radwanska (12), Poland, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.
Victoria Azarenka (8), Belarus, def. Barbora Zahlavova Strycova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-1.
Kim Clijsters, Belgium, def. Marion Bartoli (14), France, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.
Francesca Schiavone (26), Italy, def. Stefanie Voegelé, Switzerland, 6-4, 6-4.
Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez, Spain, def. Angelique Kerber, Germany, 7-5, 6-3.
Vania King, United States, def. Samantha Stosur (15), Australia, 7-5, 6-4.
Daniela Hantuchova (22), Slovakia, def. Timea Bacinszky, Switzerland, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1.
Serena Williams (2), United States, def. Melinda Czink, Hungary, 6-1, 6-1.

Boxing

Fight schedule
Sept. 12
At Kempton Park, South Africa, Love-moe N'dou, Australia, vs. Matthew Hatton, Britain, 12, for N'dou's IBO welterweight title; Zolani Marali, South Africa, vs. Ji Hoon Kim, South Korea, 12, for Marali's IBO super featherweight title.
At MCH Messecenter, Herning, Denmark, Mikkel Kessler, Denmark, vs. Gusmyl Perdomo, Venezuela, 12, for Kessler's WBA super middleweight title.
At San Juan, Puerto Rico, Ivan Calderon, Puerto Rico, vs. Rodol Mayol, Philippines, for Calderon's WBO and Ring Magazine titles; Roman Martinez, Puerto Rico, vs. Michael Lozada, Mexico, 12, for Martinez's WBO junior lightweight title.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions
BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
Suspended Minnesota minor leaguers SS Jose Murillo and P Francisco Nunez for 50 games after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance in violation of the Minor League Drug Prevention and Treatment Program.
American League
BOSTON RED SOX—Recalled OF Josh Reddick from Pawtucket (IL).
OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Activated INF Bobby Crosby from the 15-day DL. Claimed RHP John Meloan off waivers from Pittsburgh and optioned him to Sacramento (PCL).
TAMPA BAY RAYS—Recalled RHP Wade Davis from Durham (IL).
TEXAS RANGERS—Activated C Jarrod Saltalamacchia from the 15-day DL.
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Recalled RHP Bryan Augenstein from Mobile (SL).
CHICAGO CUBS—Activated RHP David Patton from the 15-day DL.
CINCINNATI REDS—Purchased the contract of LHP Pedro Viola from Louisville (IL). Transferred INF Danny Richar to the 60-day DL.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Sent RHP Jesus Castillo outright to Chattanooga (SL). Activated INF Doug Mientkiewicz from 60-day DL.
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Purchased the contracts of LHP Dan Runzler and C Buster Posey from Fresno (PCL).
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Claimed LHP Victor Garate off waivers from the L.A. Dodgers.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
ATLANTA HAWKS—Signed C Jason Collins.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Signed C Mikki Moore.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
BUFFALO BILLS—Released LB Pat Thomas.
CAROLINA PANTHERS—Named Danny Morrison president.
DALLAS COWBOYS—Waived WR Travis Wilson.
DETROIT LIONS—Released CB Keith Smith and WR Glenn Holt. Claimed QB Kevin O'Connell off waivers from New England.
NEW YORK JETS—Waived P Glenn Pakula.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS—Signed G Marcus Johnson. Released C Sean Mahan.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
FLORIDA PANTHERS—Signed RW Evgeny Dadonov.
OTTAWA SENATORS—Announced the retirement of D Jason Smith.
PHOENIX COYOTES—Signed LW Taylor Pyatt to a one-year contract.
VANCOUVER CANUCKS—Agreed to terms with G Roberto Luongo on a 12-year contract extension through the 2021-22 season.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
D.C. UNITED—Signed G Abdul Hamid.
PHILADELPHIA UNION—Named Cara Jofis director of marketing.
COLLEGE
NCAA—Placed the Georgetown baseball program on three years' probation because 26 players received a total of more than \$60,000 in excess pay from 2001-07 in a work-study program.
DUKE—Named Kevin Lehman assistant director of women's basketball operations and Sarah Smoak director of marketing and assistant director of women's basketball operations.
HIGH POINT—Named Tim Teeff strength and conditioning coach.
OHIO STATE—Named Pat Chun senior associate athletics director for external relations.
OHIO WESLEYAN—Named Ian Miller golf coach and Seth McGuffin assistant track & field coach.
SIENA—Named Dennis Bates associate athletic director of operations.
SUSQUEHANNA—Named T.J. Jordan and Mark Prusch men's assistant basketball coaches and Kristal Hood women's assistant basketball coach.

U.S. Open
‘Third-best’ American
Oudin tops
Dementieva

By EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's right there on her shoes: "Believe." Melanie Oudin always has, though even she had to acknowledge this latest accomplishment felt a bit overwhelming.

Maybe that helped explain why her leg was cramping, why the tears were falling, why the match points were slipping away toward the end of her U.S. Open upset over fourth-seeded Elena Dementieva on Thursday.

"First time playing on Arthur Ashe, I was beating No. 4 in the world, about to beat her," Oudin, 17, said. "Just a little bit of everything. A lot of things were going through my mind."

The Marietta, Ga., product, ranked 70th in the world, won 5-7, 6-4, 6-3. She is now, by almost every account, the next great American hope in women's tennis.

She places this upset next to the one over No. 6 Jelena Jankovic at Wimbledon that catapulted her into the top 100.

That was on Court 3 in front of hundreds an ocean away. This was played in front of thousands in her home country.

"I think it means more to me, though, since this is the U.S. Open," Oudin said. "You know, I had the whole crowd cheering for me, so much support."

She played much of the third set with a heavy wrap on her left thigh, an injury she said shouldn't prevent her from returning in a few days to face either 29th-seeded Maria Sharapova or another American teen, Christina McHale, 17.

The United States has long been looking for depth in a talent pool that has consisted of Serena and Venus Williams dominating at the top, with not too much beyond them.

"They've been, like, my idols," Oudin said. "I'm really proud of that, to be the third-best American."

Also Thursday, No. 1 Dinara Safina stayed alive in the quest for her first major, but in ugly fashion — a 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-3 victory over Germany's Kristina Barrois. Safina won despite 38 unforced errors and 15 double-faults in her second straight uncomfortably close match.

Also, men's No. 20 seed Tommy Haas of Germany defeated American Robert Kendrick and 10th-seeded Fernando Verdasco advanced, along with unseeded American Jesse Witten. On the women's side, No. 13 Nadia Petrova, No. 21 Zheng Jie and No. 24 Sorana Cirstea advanced. No. 30 Alona Bondarenko lost.

TANK McNAMARA



A WEEKLY LOOK **RACING STRIPES** AT MOTORSPORTS

By CHRIS JENKINS
The Associated Press

JUST 5 feet 7 and 148 pounds, Ryan Briscoe has the prototypical build for an IndyCar series driver.

You probably wouldn't guess his favorite sport growing up in Australia was ... rugby?

"I try to be tough," Briscoe said, smiling. "I don't know if I am. I was definitely the little guy in school. I was always the small guy. But I could take down the big guys."

The mild-mannered Briscoe is taking down the big guys in IndyCar this year, too.

After beating fellow championship contender Scott Dixon in a thrilling race at Chicagoland Speedway last weekend — winning by only 0.0077 of a second for the fourth-closest finish in series history — Briscoe has a 25-point lead over Dario Franchitti in the standings going into the final two races of the season.

Briscoe is the clear favorite to win the series championship, a remarkable turnaround for a driver who struggled to find a full-time IndyCar ride after an unsuccessful stint with Chip Ganassi's team in 2005 ended with a brutal, fiery crash at Chicagoland that earned him the dubious nickname "Briscoe Inferno."

Now he's on a different kind of hot streak.

"I'm proud of myself and the team to be here, because it's a pretty cool achievement," Briscoe said. "I'm really happy with the way the season's gone, and I still feel like I'm getting strong. All that's left is to try to close the deal."

Briscoe doesn't have the racing résumé to match either of his championship rivals, Dixon and Franchitti. And his easygoing personality stands in stark contrast to revved-up Penske Racing teammate Helio Castroneves, who is recognized off the track for his "Dancing With the Stars" title as often as he is for his Indy 500 victories.

Briscoe doesn't necessarily act like a star, but he's on his way to becoming one.

After racing part time in several series in 2006, Briscoe took a job with the elite Penske team in 2007 — not in IndyCars, but in the lesser-known American LeMans sports-car series.

And it paid off when Sam Hornish Jr. transferred to Penske's NASCAR team, opening one of the IndyCar series' most coveted rides. Briscoe knew he finally had the equipment and team he needed to contend for a title.



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Ryan Briscoe, celebrating his victory at Chicagoland, has a 25-point lead over Dario Franchitti in the IndyCar standings going into the final two races of the season.

Meet IndyCar's little big man

Ryan Briscoe, at 5-7 and 148 pounds, has taken down the big guys to grab the points lead with two races left

"That's obviously the goal," Briscoe said. "Obviously, you come to a team like this and you want to believe that you're capable of winning championships and winning Indy 500s. And certainly, when I came on board on the IndyCar side at the beginning of last year, I had really no expectations of winning the championship that year just because I felt so much like a rookie."

Briscoe showed he had speed last season, winning at Milwaukee, Mid-Ohio and an exhibition race in Surfers Paradise, Australia. But he needed to become more consistent to become a true championship contender.

And after winning in Chicagoland, he has 12 top-five finishes in 15 races.

"I think [it's] something I've definitely been working hard on over the last few years," Briscoe said. "You know, I think when Penske hired me in the LeMans series, it was probably one of the main things that was lacking in my department. It's something I've really been working hard on, together with the team."

Briscoe said he has learned patience from Roger Penske, perhaps the series' most respected team owner. He'll still go for victories — as evidenced by his wheel-to-wheel finish with Dixon at Chicagoland — but he won't make an overly aggressive move if the risks outweigh the reward.

"I'd say [it's] maybe choosing moments to be aggressive, learning when it's time to go, when it's time not to," Briscoe said. "That's probably been a big part of it. And, probably, getting more comfortable with these cars and making fewer mistakes."

Penske takes a hands-on approach to running Briscoe's team, communicating with the driver through his in-car radio. "Roger's the one who helps me a bit more in the car," Briscoe said. "He'll be like, 'Just relax, you're good where you are.' Or, 'You need to push.' The way it's going, if I don't win, there's a pretty high chance one of those guys [Dixon or Franchitti] are probably going to win. So we've really got to go out there and try to win the races."

Briscoe likes his chances going into the final two races, in Japan on Sept. 19 and at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Oct. 10. Both are 1.5-mile ovals, the style of track Briscoe has shown the most improvement on this season.

"I think I've improved, and certainly gained some confidence going into a race weekend on these types of tracks," Briscoe said. "We've had great runs at all of them this year — Kansas, Texas, Kentucky [and Chicago] — so I feel really good about closing out the season."

FAST FACTS

SPRINT CUP

Race 25: Pep Boys Auto 500 at Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton, Ga. 8:30 a.m. Monday, AFN-Xtra

Last race: Kyle Busch completed a Bristol season sweep, holding off Mark Martin on Aug. 22 in a frantic four-lap sprint. Busch has four victories this season.

Last year: Carl Edwards raced to the seventh of his series-high nine 2008 victories, beating the resilient Jimmie Johnson by 2.684 seconds. Johnson overcame an early pit-road speeding penalty that left him a lap down in 30th place.

Worth noting: The race is the first night Sprint Cup event at Atlanta Motor Speedway. ... Kurt Busch won the March race at the track for his lone victory of the year.

Next race: Chevy Rock & Roll 400, Sept. 12, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.



Driver to watch: Even though he's won four times this year in Sprint Cup, Kyle Busch is still on the outside looking in. With only two races left before the Chase, he's in 13th place.

DRIVER STANDINGS

Through 24 of 36 races

1. Tony Stewart	3,564
2. Jimmie Johnson	3,344
3. Jeff Gordon	3,310
4. Denny Hamlin	3,141
5. Carl Edwards	3,110
6. Kurt Busch	3,103
7. Ryan Newman	2,995
8. Greg Biffle	2,986
9. Juan Pablo Montoya	2,975
10. Mark Martin	2,971
11. Kasey Kahne	2,963
12. Matt Kenseth	2,945
13. Kyle Busch	2,911
14. Brian Vickers	2,906
15. Clint Bowyer	2,833
16. David Reutimann	2,785
17. Marcos Ambrose	2,639
18. Jeff Burton	2,568
19. Joey Logano	2,487
20. Casey Mears	2,478
21. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2,416
22. Jamie McMurray	2,403
23. Martin Truex Jr.	2,314
24. Kevin Harvick	2,300
25. AJ Allmendinger	2,258

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Degree V12 300 at Hampton, Ga. (8 a.m. Sunday, AFN-Xtra).

Next race: Virginia 529 College Savings 250, Sept. 11, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.

Driver Standings

1. Kyle Busch	4,034
2. Carl Edwards	3,842
3. Brad Keselowski	3,752

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS

This week: Lucas Oil 200 at Newton, Iowa.

Next race: Copart 200, Sept. 12, Gateway International Raceway, Madison, Ill.

Driver Standings

1. Ron Hornaday Jr.	2,593
2. Matt Crafton	2,373
3. Mike Skinner	2,277

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen held off Force India's Giancarlo Fisichella in the Belgian Grand Prix, the Finn's fourth victory at the track in five years. Raikkonen won for the first time since the 2008 Spanish GP.

Next race: Italian Grand Prix, Sept. 13, Autodromo Nazionale di Monza, Monza, Italy.

Driver Standings

1. Jenson Button	72
2. Rubens Barrichello	56
3. Sebastian Vettel	53

INDYCAR SERIES

Last race: Points leader Ryan Briscoe won the fourth-closest finish in series history, beating Scott Dixon by 0.0077 seconds at Chicagoland Speedway.

Next race: Indy Japan 300, Sept. 19, Twin Ring Motegi, Motegi, Japan.

Driver Standings

1. Ryan Briscoe	550
2. Dario Franchitti	525
3. Scott Dixon	517

NHRA

This week: Mac Tools U.S. Nationals at Clermont, Ind. (Delayed, 1 p.m. Tuesday, AFN-Xtra).

Next event: NHRA Carolinas Nationals, Sept. 18-20, zMax Dragway, Concord, N.C.

Driver Standings

Top Fuel	
1. Antron Brown	1,435
2. Larry Dixon	1,248
3. Tony Schumacher	1,194
Funny Car	
1. Tony Pedregon	1,292
2. Ron Capps	1,219
3. Ashley Force Hood	1,128
Pro Stock	
1. Jeg Coughlin	1,438
2. Jason Line	1,373
3. Mike Edwards	1,349

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WWW.STRIPES.COM/RACING

2009 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW: SERVICE ACADEMIES

Navy

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — From the moment he arrived at the Naval Academy, Ricky Dobbs was touted as a potential star in the triple-option.

The time has come for the junior quarterback to make good on that assessment.

After providing a glimpse of his potential last year, Dobbs will be counted on to run the offense and lead the Midshipmen to a seventh consecutive winning season.

Last season, Dobbs played occasionally in relief and started only one game, yet finished third on the team with 495 yards rushing and second in scoring with eight touchdowns. That came after a spectacular debut, in which he replaced injured Jarod Bryant against SMU and ran for 224 yards and four touchdowns.

He also ran for 124 yards in his first collegiate start, a victory over Northern Illinois.

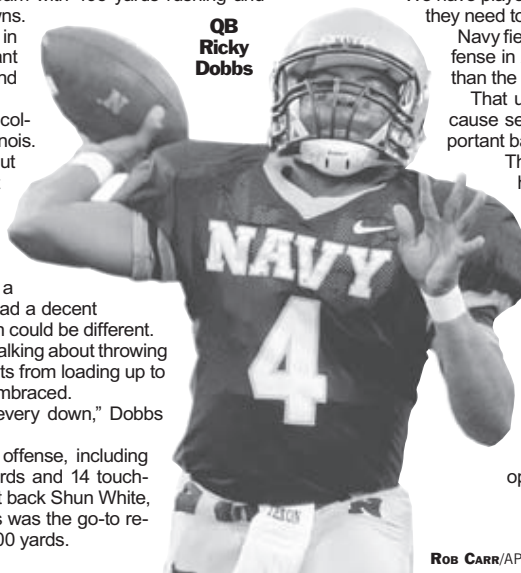
"There is something special about Ricky. Players, coaches, fans, they just love this kid," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "I think our team will rally around Ricky as our leader."

Dobbs is a powerful runner with speed, and his strong arm makes him a legitimate double threat. Navy hasn't had a decent passing attack in years, but this season could be different.

Offensive coordinator Ivin Jasper is talking about throwing the ball more often to prevent opponents from loading up to stop the run, an idea that Dobbs has embraced.

"I would love to throw the ball on every down," Dobbs said.

Navy graduated seven starters on offense, including Eric Kettani, who rushed for 1,862 yards and 14 touchdowns as the starting fullback, and slot back Shun White, who ran for 1,092 yards. Tyree Barnes was the go-to receiver in 2008 with 20 receptions for 400 yards.



QB
Ricky
Dobbs

ROB CARR/AP

Army

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Rich Ellerson thumbs through the program that sits atop the coffee table in his office. It's from the 1962 Army-Navy game.

The Black Knights' new football coach quickly finds the page he's looking for — clearly he has done this before — and points to a picture of John Ellerson, Army defensive end, team captain, Rich's older brother and one of three men in the family to graduate from West Point (their father and another brother also were cadets).

So when Ellerson calls his gig "the most important job in the country" he is not dealing in hyperbole.

He didn't attend West Point himself, but turning around a tattered program and making Army a winner again is a personal mission for Ellerson, not merely a step on the career ladder.

"The United States Military Academy in a time of war struggling in a game that's a metaphor for combat, that's not right," said Ellerson, his square jaw, close-cut hair and wiry frame giving him a straight-from-central-casting look for the job. "Everybody wants to win. We need to win."

"In my world that's a big deal."

It's also not hyperbole to say Army football has never endured such a terrible stretch as it has the past dozen seasons.

The program that produced college football icons such as Hall of Fame coach Earl "Red" Blaik and his famed Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside backfield of Heisman Trophy winners Doc Blanchard and Glenn Davis has become a doormat.

One of the great venues in all of sports, 85-year-old Michie Stadium, sitting on a bluff above the Hudson River, has not been home to a winning team since 1996.

That season, coach Bob Sutton's Black Knights went 10-2.

Since then, Army has taken every wrong turn imaginable. Every mistake compounded by the next one. The wrong coaches playing the wrong style against the wrong opponents.

Army is 30-108 over the past 12 seasons, each ending with a losing record. Even worse, the Cadets have lost seven straight games to Navy, the Middies' longest winning streak in the series.

"It's been tough," said former Army coach Jim Young, who was part of the committee that helped hire Ellerson. "Particularly, knowing that Air Force and Navy are similar and having success."

Young coached Army from 1983-1990, going 51-39-1 and rescuing the program from hard times by installing a triple-option offense.

Even then, the days of Army being a national power as it was in the 1940s — when the Cadets won consecutive national titles under Blaik — were long gone. But Young proved Army could still be competitive.

The trouble started for Army in 1998. Worried about being able to function as an independent when almost every college football team was

Alexander Teich, who won the starting fullback job in the spring, had only seven carries last season. The slot back position is still up for grabs, and Niumatalolo hopes Mario Washington will take over for the departed Barnes as the main receiver.

"We do have some question marks on offense. We don't have the big, bruising fullback that we've had in the past with guys like Kyle Eckel, Adam Ballard and Eric Kettani. We don't have a slot back with break-away speed like a Reggie Campbell or Shun White," Niumatalolo said.

"We have players with ability that can get the job done, but they need to go out there and produce."

Navy fielded the nation's most improved scoring defense in 2008, allowing 14.4 points per game fewer than the previous season.

That unit should be even better this season because seven starters return, along with several important backups.

There was concern that Navy might slip after head coach Paul Johnson departed for Georgia Tech, but that hasn't happened. Niumatalolo, Johnson's longtime assistant and triple-option disciple, guided the Midshipmen to their sixth straight bowl berth last year.

More importantly, Navy beat Army and Air Force to capture the coveted Commander-in-Chief's Trophy for the sixth consecutive season.

This year, however, will be even more of a challenge. Eight teams on the schedule played in bowl games last season, including Ohio State, Navy's opponent in the opener on Sept. 5.

— The Associated Press

aligning with a conference, Army joined Conference USA. It was the first step toward oblivion. Army, literally, could not keep up in a league loaded with speed.

Mistake No. 2: To keep pace with C-USA opponents heading into the 21st century, former athletic director Rick Greenspan decided Army needed a more modern offensive approach.

Out went the option, in came coach Todd Berry and his spread offense with plans to fling the football around Michie Stadium. It was a disaster.

In three-plus seasons, Army went 5-35. Berry did lead Army to a 26-17 victory over Navy in 2001, the Cadets' last victory in the storied rivalry.

Army left C-USA after the 2004 season. Good move. Before that season, Bobby Ross was hired to coach the Black Knights. Bad move.

Ross had a glitzy résumé that included a national championship with Georgia Tech and a Super Bowl appearance with the San Diego Chargers. But he was 68 at the time and not a long-term solution. Nor was his West Coast offense. Army won nine games in three seasons under Ross, and the timing of his departure in January 2007 left the school in a bind.

Assistant Stan Brock was hastily promoted and two 3-9 seasons followed, though at least Army was using the option again in 2008.

After Brock was let go, athletic director Kevin Anderson determined it was time for Army football to go "back to the future."

Ellerson, 55, seems to be the perfect fit.

A coach with West Point ties, an option offense and a lifelong desire to work at West Point. When he signed his last contract at Cal Poly, where he went 56-34 in eight seasons, he made sure there would be no buyout if he left to become Army's head coach.

Where most people see stumbling blocks to success on the football field at Army — high academic standards, rigorous dawn-to-dusk responsibilities, a military commitment after graduation — Ellerson sees the perfect breeding ground for a winning football team.

"It's a martial game. This institution is about leadership and developing leaders in character in the United States Army," he said. "There are some things about the West Point culture — duty, honor, country — that set our guys completely apart from their contemporaries and draw them nearer to the game."

"We're trying to tap into that culture, to those experiences and make them translate."

It's that kind of outlook that has hopes rising around West Point.

"I strongly believe if Rich Ellerson can't turn this program around," Kevin Anderson said, "I don't know if there is a coach who can."

— Ralph D. Russo, The Associated Press

Air Force

When Air Force lines up on offense this season, there often will be four quarterbacks on the field.

Well, not really. This isn't some new, outside-the-box formation devised to confuse a defense.

But the Falcons' projected starters at tailback, Z receiver and X receiver — sophomore Asher Clark, sophomore Jonathan Warzeka and senior Josh Cousins, respectively — all were quarterbacks in high school. And the fact they'll all be on the field with projected starting quarterback Tim Jefferson underscores a major tenet of coach Troy Calhoun's recruiting philosophy:

Find the best athletes and worry about specific positions once they get to the academy.

"I think if you're at another university or if you're in the NFL, I think position drives it," Calhoun said. "Whereas here, I think it's got to be athleticism."

"We're looking for the best player, not necessarily the best ready-made product as a freshman," said secondary coach Charlton Warren, Air Force's recruiting coordinator. "To find a 5-(foot)-11 corner who has 4.4-(second) speed (in the 40-yard dash) and get him to come here is pretty tough because everyone in America wants him. But a 5-10 quarterback that's an option guy in high school that's 4.4, the market for that guy as a quarterback isn't as big."

Take sophomore Anthony Wright Jr. He arrived at the prep school in 2007 as a quarterback. But when Jefferson won the starting QB job, Wright shifted to Z receiver. Then, when he arrived at the academy before last season and the Falcons were thin at cornerback, he moved there and started the last 10 games.

Another starter on defense — junior outside linebacker Andre Morris Jr. — also was a high school quarterback, giving the Falcons six in their projected starting lineup.

"I love quarterbacks and tailbacks," Calhoun said. "I think quarterbacks have to handle the ball. I think they've got to know where other guys are lined up. They've got to have a feel for the game. They've got to have good ball skills too."

Indeed, in Calhoun's first season at the academy, he moved backup quarterback Jim Ollis to tailback, and Ollis went on to be the team's second-leading rusher. And Chad Hall, another high school quarterback, was moved from running back to Z receiver (a hybrid running back-receiver spot) and then back to tailback.

"We all have athletic ability that shows, and we all can play a plethora of positions on the field," Wright said. "But this is where the team needs us."

Warren said Air Force also has had success with high school tight ends who were too small to be recruited by perennial Top 20 schools. Examples include last year's starting defensive ends — Ryan Kemp and Jake Paulson.

"You've got 6-3, 6-4 bodies that are 215 (pounds) and maybe not big enough for a lot of elite Division I programs tight end-wise, but in four years that's Ryan Kemp," Warren said. "Ryan Kemp was 190 pounds when he came here. Jake Paulson, the same thing — both of those guys were tight ends" in high school.

"I think you've got to be excellent at projecting here," Calhoun said.

Asking a player to change positions might seem a difficult task, but Warren and Calhoun said it hasn't been a problem.

"I think what you do, you're honest with a kid," Warren said. "We're going to give you a legitimate shot at what we recruited you as." But when you get here and we say, "You can be the third-string quarterback or you could potentially be in a rotation at corner," then the kid makes that decision."

Typically, that's a no-brainer for players who want to be on the field. All of the high school quarterbacks now at other positions, for instance, did not hesitate to grab a chance to play.

"Whatever puts me on the field," Warzeka said, "I'm happy with it."

— Jake Schaller, The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colo.)



MIKE GROLL/AP

New coach Rich Ellerson, whose brother was the captain of the Army football team in 1962, is on a mission to make the academy a winner again.

2009 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW: NON-BCS CONFERENCES

Sun Belt

If the Sun Belt Conference had anything going for it when it became a football league early this decade, it was location.

The schools joining the new league had something to sell to the multitude of top recruits in the South. They offered a chance to play major college football close to home if the depth chart was a little too crowded at their preferred SEC or ACC schools.

If chances for playing time were slim at Alabama or Auburn, there was always Troy. If a south Florida standout couldn't latch on with Miami, longtime college coach Howard Schnellenberger was waiting with open arms at Florida Atlantic's Boca Raton campus.

During its first eight seasons, Sun Belt teams have gotten better and the number of bowl tie-ins have grown.

This season, the league welcomes its ninth team, Western Kentucky, which played a Sun Belt schedule last season as it prepared to enter the conference in 2009.

In 2008, Troy and FAU went to bowl games. Schnellenberger's Owls beat Central Michigan of the Mid-American Conference in the Motor City Bowl — FAU's second bowl triumph in as many years — and Troy lost in overtime to Southern Mississippi of Conference USA in the New Orleans Bowl.

Sun Belt coaches picked Troy to win the league for a fourth straight time, which would tie the mark set by North Texas in the conference's first four years. Troy would like to take it a step further and become the Sun Belt's first BCS buster. Coach Larry Blakeney figures the Trojans would need to win at least 11 of their 12 games to have a shot.

That might be more realistic if the Trojans' Sept. 12 visit defending national champion Florida was the only difficult game on their schedule. Troy also must play at Arkansas on Nov. 14, and Blakeney doesn't want to get ahead of himself when it comes to the Trojans' league schedule, either.

Troy was 8-5 overall last season, losing only one game in the Sun Belt, when Louisiana-Monroe (the same team that shocked Alabama in 2007), upset the Trojans 31-30.

Troy has key players back on its high-scoring offense, including quarterback Levi Brown (2,030 yards passing, 15 TDs), running back DuJuan Harris (1,077 yards rushing) and receiver Jerrel Jernigan (868 yards receiving).

Meanwhile, teams across the Sun Belt are putting a premium on games against other BCS non-automatic qualifying conferences. The hope is that winning more of those games will earn Sun Belt teams more consideration from bowl committees.

"The more out-of-conference wins you have in those type conferences, the bigger slice you get," Middle Tennessee coach Rick Stockstill said. "When you have those type of wins, it helps your conference and it helps the perception of your conference."

— Brett Martel,
The Associated Press

Mountain West

The Mountain West Conference title has spent all but one of the past six years in the state of Utah.

TCU's 2005 championship was the only one since 2003 not won by Utah or BYU. The Horned Frogs came painfully close to winning another last year, but a mistake-filled fourth quarter allowed Utah to rally for a 13-10 victory and go on to an MWC title and an unbeaten season.

The league is coming off a frustrating offseason. Repeated pushes for changes in the Bowl Championship Series were unsuccessful despite the MWC having the only unbeaten team in major college football last season.

Utah holds the nation's longest winning streak, which reached 14 when the Utes beat Alabama 31-17 in the Sugar Bowl. The Utes finished No. 2 in the final AP poll and revived a campaign for change, but coach Kyle Whittingham says that argument ends with the new season.

"That's really not my arena — to lobby and politic for something," Whittingham said. "That's something for our commissioner, our president and the athletic directors to debate. I just need to try to continue to win games."

The Utes became the fifth straight conference champion to go 8-0 in the league, a streak that started with Utah's unbeaten Fiesta Bowl team of 2004.

TCU coach Gary Patterson said change will come if teams from the Mountain West and Western Athletic Conference continue to get at-large BCS berths and win.

"When you get on a big stage, you have to be able to go play and you have to be able to deserve the respect," Patterson said. "You can't just do it every once in a while."

TCU was 8-0 in 2005, then BYU won back-to-back titles by going 16-0 through 2006 and 2007. Utah regained the crown last year, but is missing three-year starting quarterback Brian Johnson and All-American kicker Louie Sakoda. Defensive standouts Paul Kruger and Sean Smith left school early for the NFL.

"Every year is a new set of circumstances," Whittingham said.

— Doug Alden,
The Associated Press

Mid-American

When Turner Gill was going 28-2 as the starting quarterback at Nebraska in the early 1980s, he was known for his sleight of hand in the option attack.

But it wasn't until he became the head coach at lowly Buffalo that he was truly acknowledged as a magician.

Three seasons after taking over a team coming off a one-victory season, Gill is one of the hottest names in the coaching fraternity. A year ago he led the Bulls to an 8-6 record and their first MAC championship.

Over the past two years, Buffalo has won 13 games — one more than in its first eight seasons combined in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

A former Canadian Football League quarterback and a promising player in the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians organizations, Gill also took the Bulls to the International Bowl. Then he spurned several feelers from bigger, brand-name schools to sign a contract extension through the 2013 season.

Now Buffalo is the choice to win the East again. Asked if he needed to alter what got the Bulls to the title game, Gill answered with typical clarity: "Why change? ... Our guys expect to win now. Once you've done it, you can see what it takes to keep winning."

Buffalo's road to the conference title got tougher last week when senior running back James Starks, the school's career rushing leader, was lost for the season with a shoulder injury.

— Rusty Miller,
The Associated Press

WAC

Tuning out preseason buzz should be getting easier for Boise State.

The Broncos open another season as the Western Athletic Conference's defending champion, again a potential BCS buster.

Boise State has won six of the past seven WAC titles, a run interrupted only by Hawaii's championship in 2007. Having gone 8-0 in the league again last year, the Broncos are the pick to win it again in 2009.

"I think you can bring a lot of undue pressure onto yourself. We just try to not hear all the noise that's out there," said coach Chris Petersen, who is 35-4 in three years at Boise State. "We have a lot of expectations for ourselves regardless of what other people say."

This is Boise State's ninth season in the conference. The Broncos have finished first six times and second twice.

As for reaching the Bowl Championship Series again, the Broncos' hopes for another shot at the big time could be dashed in the season opener when Boise State hosts Oregon on Sept. 3.

"You win enough they're going to pay attention to you," Petersen said. "You step out of your conference and play teams like that and you can get something done, you'll make more of a statement, without question."

The Broncos went 12-0 in the regular season last year, but it wasn't enough to earn a trip to the big-money bowl games.

"With the BCS and all those type of things, we've just taken the approach that we do with a lot of things. We don't have any control over that," Petersen said. "A few years ago they tweaked the system and it worked out good for us. I believe if we take care of our business it will still work out good for us."

— Doug Alden,
The Associated Press

Conference USA

Conference USA coaches don't bother to scrutinize a preseason poll. Who has time to sort out that mess?

As usual, there are three or four teams that look as if they have a legitimate shot to win the conference championship this season, and a few more with reasons to dream big.

East Carolina coach Skip Holtz knows it's not even safe to pick his Pirates to repeat.

"When you look at the last four years we haven't had a back-to-back conference winner," Holtz said.

East Carolina and Houston, teams with talented, experienced quarterbacks, head into the season as the C-USA favorites. The Cougars are led by Case Keenum, who threw for 5,020 yards and 44 touchdowns last season. The Pirates get Patrick Pinkney back for a sixth year because of injury.

"That's a nice little Christmas present for us," Holtz said.

It was Pinkney who led the Pirates to an attention-grabbing start last season. East Carolina jumped into the rankings after consecutive victories over Virginia Tech and West Virginia and a 3-0 start. After faltering midseason, the Pirates rallied and beat Tulsa in the conference title game, finishing 9-5.

Holtz doesn't see a clear path to return to the championship. Southern Mississippi and Memphis stand in the way in the East.

Memphis has stocked up on transfers to make a push.

After finishing with five consecutive victories, Southern Miss expects to pick right back up with three of the league's most dynamic offensive players — running back Damion Fletcher, wide receiver DeAndre Brown and quarterback Austin Davis.

The West race featured the nation's No. 1 and 2 offenses — Tulsa and Houston — last season. With Keenum leading the way, Houston will likely be up there again. The Cougars averaged 562 yards per game last season.

Tulsa, 11-3 last year, will be trying to replace one of the nation's top quarterbacks for the second year in a row. David Johnson passed for 4,059 yards and 46 touchdowns after taking over for Paul Smith. Coach Todd Graham is expecting similar production from Johnson's successor — early leader G.J. Kinne is competing with two others for the job. He won't be making many changes.

"If we do, we're not very smart," Graham said. "We've been the No. 1 offense in the nation the last two years."

— Chris Talbott,
The Associated Press



Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore, who passed for 3,486 yards and 25 TDs last season, will lead the Broncos into a tough opening game against Oregon.

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

2009 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

USC, Carroll stand above the rest

BY JIM LITKE

The Associated Press

Fat lot of good having Snoop Dogg and Will Ferrell on the USC sideline did.

Then again, they weren't the only guys wearing Trojan jerseys who failed to lay a hand on Texas' Vince Young, let alone when the Longhorns' quarterback took off for the right corner of the end zone with 8 yards and 19 seconds left in the 2006 national championship game at the Rose Bowl.

If just one USC defender arrived in time to stop Young, college football would have one three-time national champion since 2000 and no debate about the team of the decade.

Instead, three schools have won it all twice — so if you're not in that club, take a seat.

That means you, Oklahoma, even with the best overall record (102-19) and the most Top 10 finishes (eight in nine years) of the bunch. You, too, Texas, because even a victory in the game of the century — see above — still counts as only one championship. And don't forget to save chairs for Miami and Ohio State.

Sorry, too, if you're what used to be known as a "small school."

Six Division III titles since 2000 make Mount Union the unchallenged team of the decade — in Division III. Ditto for those four Division II crowns at Grand Valley State, and the back-to-back-to-back FCS championship trophies collecting dust at Appalachian State.

This stage is reserved for the big boys. And in what has been the sport's golden era by just about any measure — talent, dollars, attendance, TV ratings and deals, classic games, upsets for the ages and, yes, even celebrity fans — there are only three contenders.

The résumés:

■ Southern California owns the longest sustained run of excellence, a 34-game winning streak from 2003-05 that began after losing in triple overtime to California, included two national championships, and ended just shy of a three-peat when Young scampered in for the winning score at the Rose Bowl.

The Trojans also have won seven consecutive conference titles, featured the most Heisman Trophy winners in the group (3), most NFL draft picks (53) first-round selections (14), and since Pete Carroll's arrival in 2001,

the winningest active coach in the game.

■ Florida has the momentum, grabbing two national championships in the past three years, and with QB Tim Tebow and last season's fire-breathing defense returning intact, the Gators are a consensus preseason pick to win a third. But they'll need it to overcome a lousy start to the decade — a 23-15 record in the three years after Ron Zook took over for Steve Spurrier in 2002, not to mention the stepback seasons coach Urban Meyer's teams posted on each side of the 2006 title.

■ Louisiana State won both its titles in New Orleans, essentially home games, and with different coaches. It wasn't that long ago that Carroll could walk into Shreveport, La., and recruit quarterback John David Booty out from under LSU's nose. And if we're playing three degrees of separation, Nick Saban walked out on LSU after a title to coach the NFL's Miami Dolphins, a job that Carroll was offered first and didn't even seriously consider. But Les Miles, Saban's successor, has reclaimed the state's fertile recruiting ground and, like Carroll, his name bubbles up near the top of the wish list every time one of the top jobs in coaching becomes vacant.

**USC coach
Pete Carroll**

JAE C. HONG/AP

Another title this year for any of those three settles the debate. And if Oklahoma were to win a second instead — no small feat, given the Sooners' 1-3 record in title bouts since 2000 — then the program's sustained excellence brings it squarely back into the argument.

In fact, statistical analyst George Sarkisian crunched most of the same numbers from the past decade used to determine the annual Massey Rating — records, rankings, strength of schedule, margin of victory, offensive and defensive rankings, etc. — and rated Oklahoma well ahead of USC (fifth), Florida (seventh) and LSU (which didn't make his Top 10).

And if none of those scenarios play out? Southern Cal gets the nod.

Carroll has turned USC into the closest thing to a national program that we've seen in decades, willing to play anyone, anywhere, anytime and mercilessly carving up opponents in nearly every bowl appearance. For all the talk about how much tougher the Southeastern Conference is than the Pac-10, which went 5-0 in last season's bowl games, by the way, look at who Florida and LSU choose to schedule outside the conference.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

POTENTIAL, FROM BACK PAGE

Terrelle Pryor, quarterback, Ohio State. Pryor gets compared to Vince Young a lot. Big and fast. Strong arm.

The type of multi-threat quarterback who could be virtually unstoppable.

Only a sophomore, Pryor seems destined to become a huge star. The question is how soon.

Jevan Snead, quarterback, Mississippi. Wouldn't it be something if the guy at South Carolina who picked Snead over Tebow in the preseason All-SEC voting turns out to be right? Snead is a big-time talent.

Noel Devine, running back, West Virginia. Spectacularly elusive, Devine ran for 1,289 yards and averaged 6.3 per carry last year.

At 5 feet 8 and 175 pounds he might not rack up huge carries, but he'll do plenty with what he gets.

Max Hall, quarterback, BYU. If Hall plays well in BYU's high-profile, early season tests against Oklahoma and Florida State, he'll be in the Heisman discussion all season — especially if he springs an upset for the Cougars.

Heisman: Longhorns come first, McCoy insists

HEISMAN, FROM BACK PAGE

McCoy gets a crack at Bradford when Texas and Oklahoma meet in Dallas on Oct. 17. A possible matchup with Tebow would have to wait until the bowl season and long after the trophy has been awarded. If Tebow or Bradford win again, they'll join Ohio State's Archie Griffin (1974-75) as the only two-time Heisman winners.

McCoy insists he's not chasing the two others. "It's not about me. It's about Texas," McCoy said. "It is my senior year, so I want it to be fun. I want it to be special."

Bradford won the trophy last season by putting up wild numbers — 4,730 yards passing and 50 touchdowns — in directing the highest-scoring offense in major college football history.

Tebow and the Gators won their second national title in three years with a 24-14 triumph over the Sooners in the BCS championship game.

McCoy had impressive numbers of his own. He set an NCAA record with a 77 percent completion rate in leading the Longhorns to their first regular-season No. 1 ranking since 1984. He also guided Texas to a 45-31 victory over Bradford and the Sooners.

McCoy, competitive to the core, will leave the debate about which QB is better to the fans and media. "They're both awesome players, awesome guys," McCoy said. "They both stand for a lot of good things that I feel this world needs to see. I think that having three of us come back this year is really good for college football."

The three stars spent time together during the Heisman Trophy ceremony in New York last year. McCoy and Bradford also roomed together at a quarterbacks camp this summer. "If you would have told me five years ago I was going to become friends with the quarterback at Texas, I

would have looked at you a little strange," Bradford said. "I think me and Colt can both see past that we play for rival schools."

Even if Texas beats Oklahoma again, keeping up with the almost legendary status of "Terrific Tim" will be tough for McCoy. Tebow has two national championship rings and a well-documented life of charitable deeds.

Unlike McCoy, who rose from small-town Texas anonymity, Tebow was anointed "The Chosen One" in an ESPN special before he started his college career. Four years later, his inspirational speech after last season's loss to Mississippi has been immortalized on a plaque that hangs at the entrance to the Florida football facility. Tebow practically grew up at the orphanage his father runs in the Philippines. He preaches to school kids and prisoners.

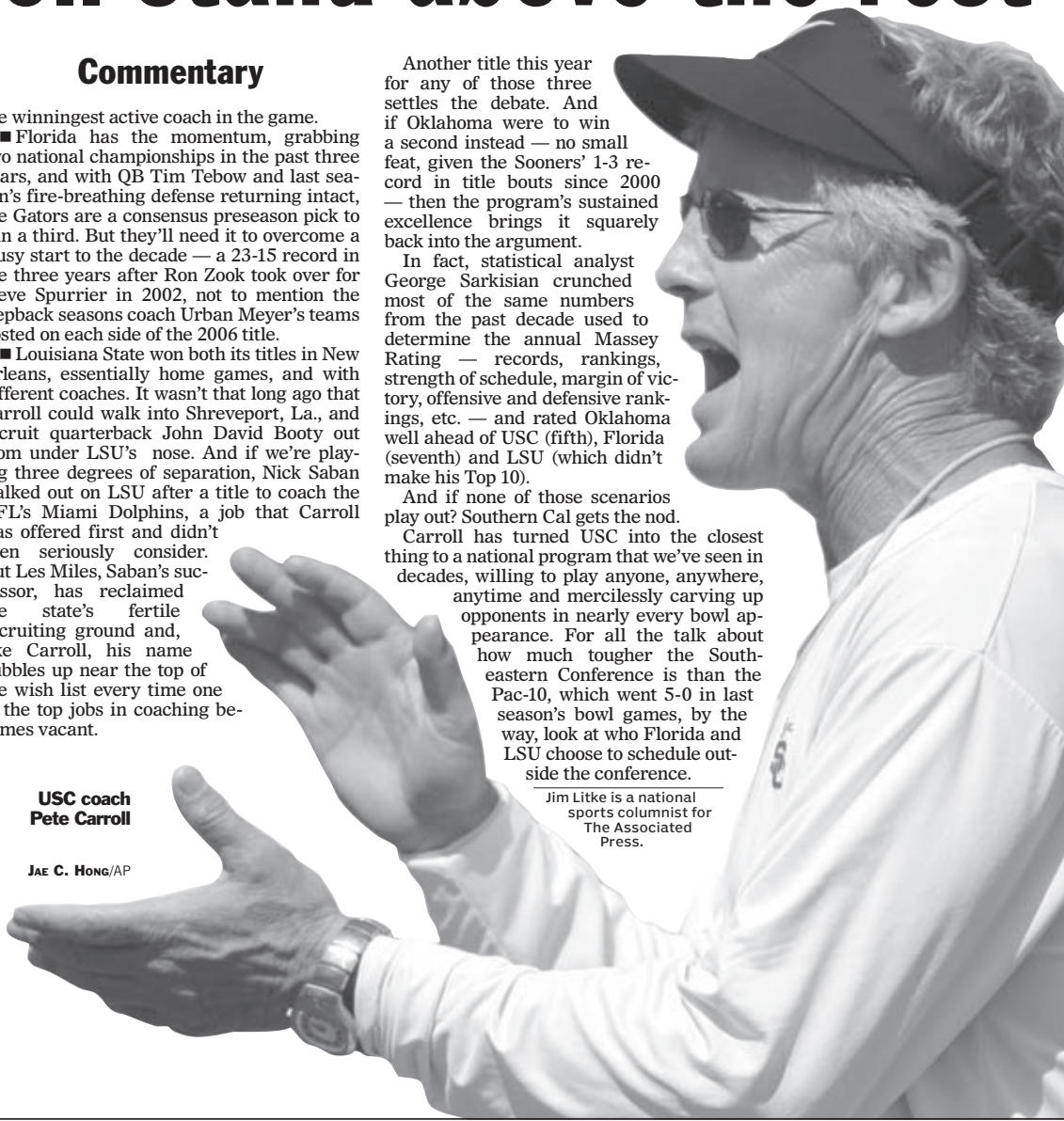
What McCoy might have working against him is the fatigue fac-

tor: Some of the more than 900 Heisman voters could simply be tired of voting for Tebow and Bradford. Maybe it's Colt's turn.

Tebow has set such a high standard for himself, even he might not be able to match it. Though it does seem as if nothing flusters him. During Southeastern Conference media days, he was asked if he is still a virgin. Tebow didn't sidestep, answering that, yes, he is saving himself for marriage.

Tebow dismisses skeptics of his golden boy image. "You have to deal with that. But for all those people, there are so many more that have been thankful, or are thankful that I visited the kid in the hospital or visited the prison or I did this or that, or that I had a positive message" he said.

"I care about the people that I can help and make a difference in their life. There are going to be haters, but you know what? I don't really care."



Broncos cram for 2nd game in four days

The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Time was at a premium this week for the Denver Broncos, who were to play for the second time in four days when they took on Arizona in an exhibition finale Thursday night.

"We crammed everything we could cram into two days [of preparation]," Broncos coach Josh McDaniels said Wednesday after the team's final walkthrough before the Cardinals game.

"You kind of see what your guys are capable of learning real fast. There are some new little things we have to do based on what they do but our guys adapted to it well," he said.

The Broncos (0-3) are coming off a 27-17 loss Sunday to Chicago in what was perhaps the most emotional exhibition game in Denver because it featured the return of Jay Cutler, a former Pro Bowl quarterback with the Broncos who was traded to the Bears after a falling out with McDaniels.

On top of taking a beating from the quarterback he ran out of town, McDaniels saw Kyle Orton, the quarterback he obtained from Chicago in the trade, suffer a gash and dislocation of the index finger on his passing hand when he struck a defender's helmet during a follow-through.

With Orton's backup, Chris Simms, nursing a left ankle

sprain, rookie Tom Brandstater will start against Arizona.

Besides Orton and Simms, the Broncos will be without wide receivers Brandon Marshall (suspension) and Jabar Gaffney (thumb), guard Chris Kuper (ankle) and defensive end Le Kevin Smith (unspecified injury). Rookie running back Knowshon Moreno practiced for the first time this week since spraining his knee Aug. 14, but McDaniels indicated the team's top draft pick won't play to try to ensure his readiness for the Sept. 13 regular-season opener at Cincinnati.

"He would be capable of playing, but I'm not exactly sure if that's the smartest decision," McDaniels said. "We're taking all the information into account, making sure we do the smart thing by the player and make sure we're ready to go next week. We'll field the healthiest team we can field when we go to Cincinnati, and I'm hopeful that a lot of the guys that have missed periods of time in training camp will be ready to go."

Emerging at least as healthy as the Broncos are going into the last exhibition remains a priority, McDaniels said, but there are still important elements to be gained from the team's final tuneup. Those include last-chance evaluations for players on the bubble ahead of Saturday's final roster cutdown to the 53-player, season-opening limit.



Ed Andrieski/AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Kyle Orton talks things over with coach Josh McDaniels during Sunday's exhibition loss to the Chicago Bears. Orton suffered a gash and dislocation of the index finger on his passing hand and wasn't expected to play Thursday night against the Arizona Cardinals.

"In some circumstances, it certainly will play a role," McDaniels said of weighing player performances in the final exhibition. "Everything they're doing on the field, we have a purpose for it, and they're going to play like they have a purpose."

Brandstater will play "for a long time," before giving way, if he does at all, to fourth-string quarterback Ingle Martin, McDaniels said.

Other starters might play up to a half, but probably not more than that. McDaniels said he wants to correct some of the things that have gone wrong in previous exhibitions and see improved play by the Broncos, who will be trying to avoid their first winless exhibition season since 1960, when they went 0-5 heading into their inaugural AFL campaign.

"Offensively, we'd love to come out of the game with no pen-

alties," said McDaniels, whose offense was responsible for most of the team's 10 penalties against Chicago. "Defensively, we did some good things against the run, but we gave up a big two-minute drive before the half. So it would be nice to get into a two-minute situation and play the situation better than we have."

The Broncos also gave up a score just before halftime in a loss against Seattle two weeks ago.

Romo's OK with Favre in purple

By JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Tony Romo is looking forward to seeing Brett Favre on Friday, even if No. 4 is wearing purple.

Although the sight of Favre with the Vikings rankles many Wisconsin natives, Romo doesn't mind. The Dallas Cowboys star is for all quarterbacks, or any other athletes, hanging around as long as they can, wherever they can.

"I've gotten used to it now," Romo said Wednesday. "You see him with the Jets last year, you see him with the Vikings this year. The thing that people don't realize is you don't just get chances to play in the National Football League because, I mean, you have to be a good player."

"He's one of the best to ever play the game. I think that sometimes people might forget how special. Not really forget, but they just think kind of, 'Oh, he's coming back, whatever.' But at the end of the day, the guy's a talented foot-

ball player. There's obviously a team that wants him for that reason. It's going to be fun to go out there and play against him."

Romo won't get to see Favre play, and Favre is just as unlikely to see Romo, when the Dallas Cowboys and Minnesota Vikings meet in the exhibition finale Friday night.

The Cowboys have seen enough from Romo this summer to know he's ready for the regular season. Although Favre might benefit from more playing time with his new teammates, coaches won't risk an injury to their soon-to-be 40-year-old newcomer.

Romo will still make the trip and certainly will find time before the game to hang out with Favre, whose best days with the Green Bay Packers came while Romo was growing up in Burlington, Wis.

Romo was in high school when Favre won three straight NFL MVP awards and led the Packers to consecutive Super Bowls. Now Romo is going into his seventh

year in the NFL and Favre keeps chugging along, even if this is his third team in as many years, with heavy doses of drama and short-lived retirements.

Has it tarnished Favre's legacy? Not to Romo.

"Shoot, history tells us plenty of people have done it," Romo said. "Everybody remembers your (best) moments. Is Michael Jordan not Michael Jordan because of Washington? He came back, he was still a good player, very productive, but you hold such a standard — can you ever reach the level you were at in your prime? I don't know. That's why they all come back, to try and do that."

Romo's style certainly is reminiscent of a young Favre, from the scrambles and clutch plays to the groan-worthy mistakes made while trying to do the impossible.

This season, though, Romo is working to break that habit, trying to convince himself that a sack is better than a turnover, that an incompleteness is better than an interception.

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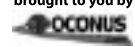
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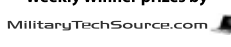


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Sports briefs

NFL says Vick eligible to play in third game

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick is eligible to play beginning in the third game of the regular season.

Goodell met with Vick for 45 minutes Thursday before announcing his decision.

Vick, recently signed by the Philadelphia Eagles, played in last week's exhibition game and was expected to play against the New York Jets on Thursday night.

Goodell had said he would consider Vick for full reinstatement by no later than Week 6.

Vick was released from federal custody July 20 after serving 18 months of a 23-month sentence for his role in running a dogfighting ring.

"I think he's making real progress," Goodell said.

"I think he has a better feel for the challenges ahead of him."

Vick signed with the Eagles on Aug. 13, but did not travel with the team to its second exhibition game a week later against the Indianapolis Colts because he could not play.

He took six snaps in Philadelphia's game against the Jacksonville Jaguars last week, lining up at quarterback and receiver.

Also:
■ The Tampa Bay Buccaneers fired offensive coordinator Jeff Jagodzinski on Thursday, saying they weren't getting the "direction" needed from him 10 days before the regular season opener. First-year coach Raheem Morris offered a vague explanation for the move on the eve of the team's exhibition finale against the Houston Texans. Quarterbacks coach Greg Olson was promoted to Jagodzinski's role and will take over play-calling.

CFL team ends pursuit of Pacman

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Adam "Pacman" Jones won't be playing for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers after all.

The CFL team said Wednesday it had ended its pursuit of the controversial ex-NFL cornerback, one day after multiple reports said Jones would play for the team.



Quarterback Michael Vick is eligible to play in the Philadelphia Eagles' third regular-season game, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said Thursday.

MATT ROURKE/AP

"It is unfortunate that this situation became public; however, our position has remained consistent," Blue Bombers coach Mike Kelly said in a statement.

"We will pursue athletes that we believe will contribute to our organization on and off the field.

"We have completed our assessment and due diligence and at this time we will not be pursuing the services of Adam Jones."

Jones is a former first-round draft pick of the Tennessee Titans who has twice been suspended by the NFL for off-field incidents, including for the 2007 season, and was released in February by the Dallas Cowboys.

Before coming to Dallas, Jones was arrested six times and involved in 12 instances requiring police intervention after Tennessee drafted him in 2005. He was suspended by commissioner Roger Goodell for the 2007 season before he got in trouble again.

The cornerback's time with the Cowboys was cut short by six games for another behavior-related suspension, an off-field scuffle with a member of the security detail provided by the team.

NCAA clears Tide players for Virginia Tech game

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — No. 5 Alabama will have two of its key offensive players for its opener Saturday night against No. 7 Virginia Tech.

The NCAA reinstated receiver Julio Jones and tailback Mark Ingram on Wednesday on the condition that they repay the cost of a Gulf Coast fishing trip paid for by businessman Curtis Anderson during the spring. An Alabama

spokesman said the money had been paid to charity.

"According to the facts of the case submitted by Alabama, the student-athletes received impermissible food, lodging, transportation and entertainment from an individual with whom one of the student-athletes had become acquainted prior to enrolling in college," the NCAA said in a statement.

"Consistent with NCAA membership requirements, the institution reported the violation and declared the student-athletes ineligible. As part of the reinstatement request, the institution required the student-athletes to make repayment of the value of the impermissible benefits to charity."

The ruling was good news for the Crimson Tide. Jones was an All-Southeastern Conference receiver as a freshman in a receiving corps that lacks other proven playmakers.

Ingram is set to replace All-SEC tailback Glen Coffee after leading the team with 12 touchdown runs as a freshman.

U.S. moves up to No. 11 in FIFA rankings

ZURICH — Confederations Cup champion Brazil remained at the top of the FIFA rankings for a third consecutive month, and the United States moved up to No. 11. European champion Spain stayed second, followed by the Netherlands in world rankings announced Wednesday. World champion Italy gained points to pull even with Germany in fourth place.

The United States, the Confederations Cup runner-up in June,

rose one place to No. 11, its best placing since the 2006 World Cup.

Russia, England and Argentina were unchanged from Nos. 6-8, and No. 9 Croatia traded places with France, which rounded out the top 10. Mexico used its victory in a World Cup qualifying match over the Americans last month to improve six places to No. 24.

Seattle Sounders win U.S. Open Cup

WASHINGTON — The Seattle Sounders hope to build on their U.S. Open Cup championship when they return to MLS play.

Freddy Montero and Roger Levesque scored to lead Seattle to a 2-1 victory over D.C. United in the Open Cup final Wednesday night, giving the expansion Sounders their first trophy.

Seattle came in winless in its past three MLS games and is in third place in the Western Conference.

Montero smashed in a rebound in the 67th minute and Levesque scored in the 85th as Seattle joined Chicago (1998) as the only teams to win the Open Cup in their inaugural season.

Clyde Simms scored for D.C. in the 89th minute.

Balsillie proposes Coyotes start in Arizona, go to Canada

PHOENIX — Canadian billionaire James Balsillie proposed having the Phoenix Coyotes begin the season in Arizona, then move to Hamilton, Ontario, as quickly as possible.

Balsillie's attorney, Jeff Kessler, made the suggestion Wednesday after U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Redfield T. Baum said it was "reasonably probable" that he could not resolve the many outstanding issues in the messy Coyotes fight by a Sept. 14 deadline.

The statements came during a hearing on whether the judge should overrule the NHL board of governors' 26-0 vote rejecting Balsillie as a potential owner and clear the way to move the franchise to Hamilton.

After the hearing, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said that proposals by Balsillie's company, PSE, to move the team before or during the season "shows a lack of respect for the game."

The NHL vehemently opposes Balsillie's plan to buy the team and wants the judge to rule that the Coyotes will play the season in Arizona regardless of the outcome of the bankruptcy case. Such a ruling would kill Balsillie's bid, his attorney said.

The league, which has made its own bid, said moving the team at this late date across the continent to Hamilton would create enormous difficulty for the other teams and players, not to mention everyone involved with the Phoenix franchise.

Ex-Mets pitcher Koosman gets six months in tax case

MADISON, Wis. — A federal judge in Wisconsin sentenced former New York Mets pitcher Jerry Koosman to six months in prison for not paying his taxes.

Prosecutors said Jerry Koosman, a former all-star who helped the Mets win the 1969 World Series, didn't pay federal income taxes for 2002, 2003 and 2004, costing the government up to \$90,000.

According to IRS agents, Koosman, 66, told them he had researched tax laws and concluded they applied only to federal workers, corporate employees and District of Columbia residents.

He pleaded guilty in May to misdemeanor tax evasion for 2002 in a deal with prosecutors.

Laimbeer, Theus join T-wolves as assistants

MINNEAPOLIS — Former Detroit Pistons "Bad Boy" Bill Laimbeer and former Sacramento head coach Reggie Theus are among the assistants who will work under Kurt Rambis with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The team announced the additions Thursday. The staff included Dave Wohl, who most recently worked in the Boston Celtics organization. J.B. Bickerstaff is being retained from Kevin McHale's staff.

Laimbeer resigned as coach of the WNBA's Detroit Shock this summer. He led the Shock to three titles in six years, but left in June in pursuit of an NBA job.

Theus was fired by the Kings in December after 106 games as coach in Sacramento.



FOOTBALL

Preview

STARS AND STRIPES

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Check out your favorite teams and players, including division previews, predictions, and game schedules.

This Sunday through Thursday,
September 6-September 10



AL roundup

Torres is torrid

White Sox rookie throws blanks against Cubs in makeup game

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Rookie Carlos Torres scattered five hits over seven innings and Dewayne Wise made a great throw to cut down a runner at the plate as the Chicago White Sox beat the Chicago Cubs 5-0 on Thursday in a makeup game between city rivals whose seasons have gone awry.

Torres (1-0), recalled from the minors two days ago, earned his first major league victory in his third career start. He struck out five and didn't issue a walk.

Wise, whose highlight-reel catch preserved Mark Buehrle's perfect game in July, made a strong throw from right field to preserve a 1-0 White Sox lead in the seventh. Jake Fox tried to score from second on Jeff Baker's single but Wise delivered the ball to catcher A.J. Pierzynski, who was able to tag the sliding Fox for the second out.

Tigers 4, Indians 3: Placido Polanco hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to give host Detroit a three-game sweep. The Tigers increased their lead in the AL Central to five games over the idle Minnesota Twins.

Ryan Raburn led off the Detroit 10th with a double. Rafael Perez (4-3) then intentionally walked Miguel Cabrera and issued an unintentional free pass to Magglio Ordonez to load the bases. Polanco followed with a fly ball to center and Raburn scored standing up.

Zach Miner (6-4) pitched 2 1/3 hitless innings to get the victory for Detroit, which came back to win after blowing a 3-0 lead.

In Wednesday games:

Rangers 6, Blue Jays 4: Elvis Andrus hit a go-ahead two-run homer that kept Texas in the AL West and wild-card races.

The victory pulled Texas with-

in 3 1/2 games of the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels and 2 1/2 games of wild-card leader Boston after both lost. It is the closest the Rangers have been in the division since Aug. 9.

Josh Hamilton, whose back has bothered him since playing on the turf in Minnesota last weekend, left after hitting a leadoff double in the fourth, sliding head-first into second and then scoring on a single by Nelson Cruz to get Texas within 3-2.

Andrus, who moved from ninth to second in the order with Michael Young out 2-3 weeks with a strained left hamstring, hit his sixth homer to make it 4-3 in the fifth.

Yankees 10, Orioles 2: At Baltimore, CC Sabathia (16-7) allowed one run in seven innings to take the AL lead in victories and Alex Rodriguez got his 2,500th hit and drove in four runs as the visiting Yankees completed a three-game sweep.

Eric Hinske homered and Johnny Damon had four hits for the Yankees, who scored seven runs in the ninth inning. New York has won six straight and is 34-11 since the All-Star break.

Sabathia (16-7) struck out nine, gave up seven hits and walked one.

Rays 8, Red Sox 5: Pat Burrell snapped an eighth-inning tie with a RBI single and Evan Longoria followed with a two-run homer for host Tampa Bay. J.P. Howell (7-4) pitched an inning and Dan Wheeler got the final two outs for his second save as the Rays moved within five games of wild-card-leading Boston.

White Sox 4, Twins 2: Gordon Beckham and Paul Konerko hit consecutive home runs off Joe Nathan (2-2) with two outs in the top of the ninth. It was Nathan's



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Elvis Andrus and Ian Kinsler (5) celebrate Texas' 6-4 victory over Toronto on Wednesday night.

fifth blown save in 40 chances and ruined rookie Brian Duensing's seven shutout innings.

D.J. Carrasco (5-1) got the last out of the eighth and Bobby Jenks picked up his 28th save.

Tigers 4, Indians 2: At Detroit, Magglio Ordonez had three hits, and the Tigers took advantage of five Cleveland errors to open a 4 1/2-game lead over Minnesota in the AL Central.

Rookie Rick Porcello (12-8) gave up two runs and five hits in seven-plus innings. Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 31st save.

Mariners 3, Angels 0: Felix Hernandez pitched eight scoreless innings to spoil Scott Kazmir's debut with visiting Los Angeles. Hernandez (14-5) gave up four hits, walked three and struck out six to lower his ERA to 2.65 — second best in the AL.

Kazmir (8-8), acquired Friday from Tampa Bay, gave up one run and three hits in 6 1/3 innings. He walked one and struck out eight.

David Aardsma pitched the ninth for his 33rd save.

Athletics 10, Royals 4: At Oakland, Calif., Landon Powell hit his first career grand slam and Trevor Cahill (8-12) won consecutive starts for the first time in more than two months.

NL roundup

Brewers avert sweep as McGehee goes long

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Casey McGehee hit a two-run homer and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-3 on Thursday to avoid a three-game sweep.

Manny Parra settled down after a slow start and pitched into the seventh inning for Milwaukee, which has won four of six. Parra (10-10) allowed two runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings.

McGehee homered for the second time in three games and finished with nine RBIs in the series. He also drove in the Brewers' first run with a sacrifice fly in the fourth.

John Smoltz (1-1), making his third start for the Cardinals, allowed four runs and six hits over six innings. He struck out six and walked none.

In Wednesday games:

Giants 4, Phillies 0: Brad Penny, a bust in Boston, pitched five-hit ball over eight shutout innings in his first start with the visiting Giants.

Penny (1-0) was back in his old All-Star form in his first outing since his release last week by Boston. Penny went 7-8 with a 5.61 ERA for the Red Sox, including 1-6 in his final 11 starts.

Penny's lone jam came in the fifth inning when the first two batters reached base. He got Raul Ibanez to fly out, and escaped without further damage.

Diamondbacks 4, Dodgers 1: Brandon Allen's two-run homer highlighted a four-run fifth inning for visiting Arizona. Max Scherzer (9-8) allowed a run and seven hits in 7 2/3 innings, and Juan Gutierrez pitched the ninth for his third save.

Cardinals 10, Brewers 3: Chris Carpenter (15-3) won his 10th straight decision for the host Cardinals, and Skip Schumaker was 4 for 4 with two RBIs.

Yadier Molina had two run-scoring doubles among three hits for the NL Central leaders.

Rockies 5, Mets 2: Jason Giambi's pinch-hit, two-run single off Brian Stokes (2-4) broke an eighth-inning tie for host Colorado. Giambi, jettisoned by Oakland, signed with Colorado last week and was called up from the minors on Tuesday. Ubaldo Jimenez (13-10) was the winner, and Franklin Morales pitched a perfect ninth for his first save in the majors.

Cubs 2, Astros 0: Ted Lilly (10-8) allowed four hits over eight shutout innings to reach the 10-victory mark for the seventh consecutive season, and Derrek Lee hit a two-run homer for the host Cubs. Carlos Marmol pitched the ninth inning for his eighth save.

Houston's Aaron Boone was back in a major league game five months after open-heart surgery. He played first base and was hitless in three at-bats.

Reds 5, Pirates 3: Brandon Phillips and Drew Stubbs homered to help the host Reds sweep the four-game series and hand Pittsburgh its seventh straight loss. Homer Bailey (5-4) struck out eight in 6 1/3 innings. Francisco Cordero pitched the ninth for his 30th save.

Marlins 8, Braves 7: Wes Helms hit a game-winning homer for host Florida, and Dan Uggla had a two-run shot.

Helms hit a 3-2 pitch off Mike Gonzalez (3-4) well over the left-field scoreboard.

Brett Carroll hit a bases-clearing double, and Ross Gload had a single, double and triple for Florida. Yunel Escobar homered in the top of the ninth off Leo Nunez (4-4) to tie it.

Padres 7, Nationals 0: Kevin Correia (10-10) limited visiting Washington to three hits in 7 2/3 innings, and Adrian Gonzalez and Chase Headley hit two-run doubles for the Padres.

Edward Mujica got the final four outs in the Padres' fourth shutout of the season. John Lannan (8-10) took the loss.

Baseball briefs

Judge orders MLB 2003 drug-test evidence be preserved

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appellate judge ordered the preservation of all evidence that allegedly shows 104 major leaguers tested positive for steroids in 2003.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last month ruled that federal agents wrongly seized the material from drug testing labs, when they were authorized to take only evidence related to 10 players identified on a search warrant. If that ruling stands, the players' union would be free to order the destruction of all the test results and related material, except for the 10 players listed in the warrant — and that's what federal prosecutors fear.

Chief Judge Alex Kozinski delayed implementing the earlier ruling until prosecutors decide whether to appeal to the Supreme Court. Prosecutors face a Nov. 24 deadline to petition the Supreme Court for review.

Groin pain sidelines Rivera

BALTIMORE — New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera could be sidelined through the weekend because of soreness in his left groin.

Rivera said he first began to feel sore on Aug. 15 in Seattle. The right-hander has pitched in five games since then, including Monday and Tuesday, when he recorded his 37th and 38th saves.

Rockies closer is idled

DENVER — Colorado Rockies closer Huston Street has biceps tendinitis in his pitching arm and is being shut down for an undetermined amount of time.

Street said he felt discomfort Tuesday night when he threw a six-pitch ninth inning against the New York Mets in his first action in a week. He brushed it off as the effects of a week-long layoff.

Street tried to warm up for Wednesday's game but couldn't get loose, and Franklin Morales instead came in for the save in a 5-2 Colorado victory.

Street, who has 33 saves, said he expects to be out a few days but no longer than a week.

Jones' season might be over

BALTIMORE — All-Star center fielder Adam Jones' breakthrough season with the Baltimore Orioles might be over.

A fluke injury has left the All-Star center fielder on crutches with a severe left ankle sprain. The initial prognosis was that Jones would miss 2-3 weeks, but he and manager Dave Trembley admitted there's a good chance he won't return this season.

Jones was hurt running the bases Tuesday night against the New York Yankees. He's batting .277 with 19 home runs and 70 RBIs. His sacrifice fly scored the deciding run in the All-Star Game.

Police recover WS ring

PHILADELPHIA — A World Series ring belonging to a Philadelphia Phillies marketing executive was recovered Wednesday by police.

The executive said he removed the \$15,000 ring in a restroom at the stadium on Monday, when the team was off. He returned a half-hour later, and it was gone.

Police Capt. Laurence Nodiff said surveillance tapes led them to a janitor, who led police to the ring, which was wrapped in a paper towel and stashed in a supply cabinet.

Police said charges were pending against the janitor, who works for a subcontractor.

SPORTS



RACING STRIPES
Ryan Briscoe: IndyCar's
little big man, Page 32

2009 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW: RACE FOR THE HEISMAN



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Oklahoma QB Sam Bradford won the Heisman last season.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Texas QB Colt McCoy was Heisman runner-up last season.



DAVE MARTIN/AP

Florida QB Tim Tebow won the Heisman two years ago.

THREE'S COMPANY

Bradford,
McCoy, Tebow
are back to battle
for coveted Heisman

BY JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

In most years, Colt McCoy would be the favorite to win the Heisman Trophy.

On the field, he is a record-setting quarterback for a Texas team expected to contend for a national championship. Off the field, McCoy is the type of guy fathers want their daughters to marry.

He does missionary work in South America, doesn't cuss and downs milk instead of soft drinks. In the summers, his West Texas roots beckon him to granddaddy's farm for hours of backbreaking work baling hay. McCoy and his dad even helped save a man who almost drowned a few years ago.

But 2009 is a unique year in all things Heisman.

McCoy is the third wheel in a Heisman race with two quarterbacks who have won it: Florida's Tim Tebow (2007) and Oklahoma's Sam Bradford (2008). This will be the first college football season in which the past two Heisman winners are competing.

Throw in McCoy, last year's runner-up ahead of Tebow, and there is another Heisman first: The top three vote-getters from last year return for another season of college football.

The challenge for McCoy is to keep up with the tour de force that is Tebow and the video-game stats that Bradford puts up.

**SEE HEISMAN
ON PAGE 35**

AUSTIN, Texas

The
Heisman
Trophy



Oklahoma State
wide receiver
Dez Bryant

BRODY SCHMIDT/AP

SIX PACK

HEISMAN
DARK HORSES

By Ralph D. Russo/The Associated Press

After the Heisman Trophy had been handed out and Tim Tebow, Sam Bradford and Colt McCoy were about to go their separate ways, any chance one of the star quarterbacks said to the two others, "Same time, same place next year?"

Never before have the top three Heisman vote-getters in one season returned to school the next.

And with all the attention on Tebow (the 2008 winner), Bradford (the '09 winner) and McCoy (last year's runner-up), it'll be tough for another player even to earn an invite to the award presentation in New York in December.

But there are a handful who could: **Jahvid Best, running back, California.** The leading returning rusher in the country, Best has sprinter speed and highlight-reel moves.

He averaged 8.1 yards per carry last year, and is expected to help the Bears challenge USC for Pac-10 supremacy.

Dez Bryant, wide receiver, Oklahoma State. Bryant was an All-American receiver last year and contributes on special teams, a must for receivers hoping to get Heisman love.

If the Cowboys can pull off an upset or two in the rugged Big 12 South, Bryant could emerge as a Heisman contender.

SEE POTENTIAL ON PAGE 35

Inside: Capsule previews of the non-BCS conferences (Sun Belt, MAC, WAC, Mountain West, C-USA), whose teams are on the outside looking in. **Page 34.**

Service academies: Navy's hopes rest with a new starting quarterback, and Army's with a new coach. Air Force? It just wants the best athletes. **Page 33.**

Coming Sunday: NFL overview. Quarterback Tom Brady is back, and the New England Patriots are hoping for a boost from his star power.

